

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Financing

Of the manifold problems which confront the Colony's present Financial Secretary none can cause more heart-scratching than that of deciding the most suitable method of financing the huge capital expenditure projects which rate as essential features of Hongkong's expansion programme. It was a subject which attracted the attention of more than one Unofficial in this week's Budget debate, and it was quite clear that apprehension is felt by members of Legislative Council concerning the policy of paying for these heavy commitments out of current revenue. It has been traditional for Government to pursue the policy of "pay as you go", and it is one that is meritorious while it can be applied without seriously jeopardising the economic equilibrium of the community. But today that Colony is embarking on projects the cost of which a few years ago would have been regarded as beyond serious contemplation. Now the prospect of having to find up to \$100 million for a single undertaking is treated almost lightheartedly, and a Budget which calls for nearly \$400 million is accepted with equanimity. It is obvious, however, that there is a limit to the Colony's revenue-raising capacity, and many will agree with the Hon. M. W. Lo that it is time Government considered some revision of its financing policies.

THE decision has already been taken to pay for the Tai Lam Chung reservoir out of annual revenue, but this is not the only scheme, approved at least in principle, which calls for vast capital expenditure. Both the Kai Tak airport extension and the new Kowloon hospital loom large as undertakings in the near future involving heavy financial commitments. Many are of the opinion that these should be financed through public loans, and their reasons are good. Both schemes are for the benefit of posterity as well as the Colony of today; wherefore, surely it is fair that some of the cost should be borne by the community of the future. Moreover, Hongkong today has no public debt. The conviction is shared among a responsible section of the business community that, given the right sort of interest terms, a loan could be successfully floated in Hongkong, and that the annual burden of its charges could and would be more easily and readily borne by the taxpayers than an increase in taxation on incomes and profits. It is a viewpoint which deserves to command the attention of Government, for apart from the relative merits of financing from revenue or loan, it is helpful for any government to possess responsible contented taxpayers.



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McCARTHY-ARMY DISPUTE

Defence Secretary Supports Accusation Against Senator

Washington, Mar. 18.

The Secretary of Defence, Mr Charles Wilson, said today that he regarded as truthful the Army report accusing Senator Joseph McCarthy and Mr Roy Cohn, his chief counsel, of putting pressure for special treatment for David Schine, former McCarthy aide.

Mr Wilson said he believed Senator McCarthy's counter-charge that the Secretary of the Army, Mr Robert Stevens, sought to have the investigation of alleged Communism switched from the Army to other branches of the services "was never a proper one."

"It is my opinion that the charge was never a proper one and that it was never so," Mr Wilson told the Senate Armed Services Committee at a public hearing.

Mr Wilson had previously told the Committee that the Armed services were not "coddling Communists" — a charge McCarthy has made repeatedly and that he had "absolute and complete confidence" in Mr Stevens.

Senator Estes Kefauver asked whether Mr Wilson regarded the Army report as truthful.

"I certainly would," Mr Wilson replied.

Mr Wilson also told the Senators he had confidence in John G. Adams, Army Counsel, "as far as I know" about him. — Reuter.

Slave Camp Revolt Disclosure

Berlin, Mar. 18.

Twelve thousand slave labourers revolted in Russia's Arctic north last year in a bloody strike that was crushed only after Soviet tank-guns killed more than 64 of the strikers and wounded some 200, it was reported today.

The report was the first full account of growing unrest, after Stalin's death, in Soviet slave camps. It was made by a German physician and told in detail in Der Monat, a magazine published here under the sponsorship of the US State Department.

The doctor, a 41-year-old Leipzig X-ray specialist, Joseph Scholmer, recently was released from Vorkuta by the Russians after serving three and a half years of a 25-year hard labour sentence.

He said about 12,000 of nearly 250,000 workers in the huge Vorkuta slave camp area on Russia's Polar coast stopped work for two weeks last July following the death of Stalin and the arrest of the Soviet secret police chief, Lavrenti Beria.

The prisoners in the Vorkuta area included Ukrainian partisans, members of the anti-Communist resistance from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, anti-Communist from all parts of the Soviet Union and foreigners, including a large number of Germans.

He said the slave revolt all but crippled Soviet industry in Leningrad, 2,000 miles to the southwest, and was not put down until Soviet troops turned sub-machineguns on strikers and arrested their ringleaders. — United Press.

NEW ABOUT THEM

Washington, Mar. 18.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Charles E. Wilson, and his aides said today that Senator Joseph R. McCarthy had turned up no case of subversion in the Armed Services they did not know about already.

Mr Wilson said that the Services had 20 loyalty or security risks among 61 drafted medical men it must commission or discharge.

Mr Wilson told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "the stage is about over" where "the Defence Department needs any help from Congressional Committees in rooting out subversives."

"I don't believe we need their help," he said under questioning by Senator Estes Kefauver (Democrat, Tennessee). "We welcome it if it is the order of the day."

Mr Wilson, voicing complete confidence in the Army Secretary, Mr Robert T. Stevens, who sat with him, said that he would like to see the last of the current feud between the Army and Mr McCarthy.

"I'd like to get it over with and go about the important work of the Defence Department," and gentlemen, it is important," he said.

"We do have important business to handle. We ought not to be distracted by this kind of thing."

Chairman Leverett Saltonstall (Republican, Massachusetts) sought to keep his committee out of the dispute between the Army and Mr McCarthy.

"We pointed out that Mr McCarthy's Sub-Committee had voted to hire a special staff and investigate charges that its counsel, Mr Roy M. Cohn, used threats and pressure to get favours for a drafted friend and former aide G. David Schine. The Sub-Committee also will investigate Mr McCarthy's counter-charge that the Army tried to 'blackmail' him into calling off his inquiry into 'Communist coddling'."

NO CODDLING
Mr Kefauver insisted, however, on asking some questions involving the Army-McCarthy feud. He said that the integrity of Mr Stevens and the Army's counsel, Mr John G. Adams, involved in the McCarthy fight, lay in the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee. So was Army morale, he said.

Senator Margaret Chase Smith, a Republican, asked Mr Wilson if anyone in the Army had been "coddling Communists."

"I'm sure no one has," Mr Wilson replied.

Mr Kefauver asked if any Congressional Committee had ever, to Mr Wilson's knowledge, uncovered a case of subversion in the Armed Forces not already under investigation by the Services themselves or the FBI.

Mr Wilson said that he had "assistants for these little things." "I do know we're getting them all out," Mr Wilson said.

"None in the Navy," spoke up Admiral James P. Holloway, Chief of Navy personnel.

"None in the Air Force," chimed in the Assistant Air Force Secretary, Mr Leo White.

"None in the Army," said Mr Stevens.

However, Mr Stevens later said, "I can't recall an instance where, with the help of the FBI

or our own agencies, we didn't know about the case. But I would like to discuss it with our own G-2 (Intelligence) people before I make a categorical statement."

ON THE RECORD
"My assistants go on record," Mr Wilson said, "that they know of no cases of which they did not have some previous knowledge. I'd like to note that we are working closely with the FBI."

Mr Wilson said that there had been some "coddling" or "Communist" in past administrations — but not in the Pentagon.

He did not make specific accusations, but he said that after World War II labour unions also coddled Communists, but had pretty well cleaned them out now with the help of the law.

Mr Kefauver asked if Mr Wilson had confidence in the Army's report of Mr Cohn's threats and pressure.

"Yes," said Mr Wilson. "I also believe people are innocent until proven guilty. It is a messy kind of thing as I read about it in the newspapers. This is a big job you've given me, and I try to ignore some of the chaff and snow. I've been going about my business and letting some other people clear up the mud."

In disclosing that the Armed Services have 20 loyalty or security risks among 61 medical men they must commission or discharge, Mr Wilson stressed that this was only 20 risks out of 15,000 medical personnel brought in under the special doctor-dentist draft. — United Press.

Pyramid Roof Caves In

Cairo, Mar. 18.

One Egyptian worker was killed and two injured when the roof caved in today in a subterranean passage in the newly discovered step pyramid at Sakkarah.

The pyramid, about 18 miles south of Cairo in the ancient burial place of kings, was never finished, but the base was uncovered from the sands in recent excavations.

The passage was believed to lead to the burial chamber of the third dynasty King Sanakht, who died 4,700 years ago. It was blocked by rubble 25 yards from the entrance and experts warned that the roof might cave in at any time.

Egyptian archaeologists hoped to find important archaeological treasures in the burial chamber. — Reuter.

FISHING BOATS ATTACKED

Tokyo, Mar. 19.

Two unidentified craft, believed to belong to Communist Japan, chased and fired on four Japanese fishing boats yesterday in the East China Sea, according to Japan's national news agency Kyodo quoting the Nagasaki Maritime Safety Board.

Two of the four boats were believed captured and taken to Shanghai, Kyodo reported. — Reuter.



Two-Headed Baby In Critical Condition

Indianapolis, Mar. 18.

Indiana's two-headed baby was placed on the critical list tonight after he was rushed to the Indiana University Medical Centre because of difficult breathing.

The three-month-old child was placed in a children's ward at Riley Hospital where he was under observation for a "blue condition" and laboured breathing, which started four days ago.

Medical centre spokesmen said physicians examined the child thoroughly because of a rash which broke out on the weaker side early in the day. It was believed at first the outbreak might be measles.

However, placing the baby in a ward with other youngsters indicated the rash was not a contagious disease, although the doctors did not say what else it might be.

GIVEN OXYGEN
The child's mother, Mrs Cecil Hartley, said oxygen was administered "three or four times" to the left head, Daniel Kaye, during the three and a half hour ambulance ride from the family's home in Petersburg, Indiana.

The left head developed breathing difficulty four days ago and the family physician, Dr Joseph Elbert, said it was caused by a "circulatory difficulty."

The right head Donald Ray, continued doing "wonderfully," Dr Elbert said, but was occasionally given oxygen as a precautionary measure.

The weaker side, which examinations shortly after the baby's birth on December 12 showed had only one lung, got oxygen "seven or eight times a day."

"I wouldn't consider his condition critical, but I'm certainly not satisfied," said Dr Elbert. He considered the infant in a "serious condition." — United Press.

Indians Attack Prospectors

El Cuzco, Peru, Mar. 18.

One person was killed and seven others were injured today when a group of Indians attacked a party of mining prospectors near here.

Troops and civil guards restored order and rescued the miners, who had been taken prisoner by the Indians.

The Indians were reported to have attacked the prospectors with clubs and stones, enraged by the idea that the prospecting operations meant they would be removed from their lands. — United Press.

Plane Crashes

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

Japanese Coast Guard headquarters here said tonight that a fishing boat had reported that an unidentified plane had crashed into the sea about 40 miles southeast of Fukuoka today. — Reuter.

Lady Churchill Threatened Again

Manchester, Mar. 18.

A further letter threatening death to Lady Churchill, the wife of the Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, was received tonight by the Manchester Evening News.

The type-written letter, posted in Manchester, bore on its envelope the legend "Ireland will be united forever". The stamp, bearing a head of Queen Elizabeth II, was stuck on upside down.

A first threatening letter was received by Lady Churchill personally last Tuesday.

Tonight's letter read: "Dear Sirs, Being a local newspaper, you may be interested to know that Lady Churchill will meet violent death before the end of June. Yours sincerely, Unity, Freedom for Ireland, Unity is our goal."

The letter has been handed over to the Manchester police. — France-Press.

Munitions Factory In Difficulties

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

Japan's biggest postwar ammunition maker faced today a serious financial crisis and possible collapse because of the inability to obtain loans from either the Government or private banks.

The Nippi Industrial Company, located 40 miles southwest of Tokyo, has been making mortar shells and machine-gun bullets for the United States security forces.

The Company received its first financial blow last Autumn when the Japan Development Bank, a Government organ, rejected its request for a 300,000,000 yen loan for manufacture of machine-gun ammunition for the U.S. forces.

The refusal was based on the alleged administrative incompetence of the Company's President and Board Directors.

Yesterday, Nippi applied for a loan of 70,000,000 yen from a private bank which agreed to lend money for the Company's immediate needs, but with a condition attached. The Bank told Nippi the money would be loaned if the Company carried out personnel changes and used part of its plant facilities for the production of "peace" goods.

Meanwhile, the local clearing house warned Nippi that it will suspend business with the Company if it failed to make good previously had cheques by their deadline.

Nippi is capitalised at 1,300,000,000 yen (about US\$240,000,000) and employs 2,500 workers. — United Press.

Royal Tour Schedule Changes

London, Mar. 18.

Because of the polio epidemic now spreading in Western Australia, it was understood here on Thursday night that several features of Queen Elizabeth's visit to that area at the end of this month have been removed from her schedule, although the tour itself is not cancelled.

A gathering of 30,000 children, which had been planned in honour of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Perth, the capital of the state of Western Australia, will not take place. This is in line with a series of recommendations outlined by the physicians making up Western Australia's defence committee against the polio epidemic.

The physicians recommended (1) that the Queen abstain from shaking hands with the persons introduced to her; (2) that these persons remain, at a distance of six feet from the Queen; (3) that all children's gatherings be eliminated, or shortened; and (4) to eliminate bouquet offerings by children to the Queen. — France-Press.

The Queen's visit to Perth, which was scheduled for the end of June, was postponed until the end of the year.

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Picture above shows the burning fuselage of the BOAC Constellation which burst into flames upon landing at Singapore's Kallang airport last week, when 32 people lost their lives. — AP Photograph.

UPROAR IN ACADEMY

Paris, Mar. 18.

Police dragged demonstrators from the French Academy here today when boos and catcalls greeted the installing of a successor to the late Charles Maurras, lifelong Royalist and supporter of Marshal Philippe Petain.

Among two demonstrators arrested was Dr. Francois Daudet, son of Leon Daudet, leader of the prewar Royalist movement, Action Francaise.

Cries of "liar" followed by a shower of leaflets from the gallery greeted academicien Jacques de Lacretelle when he said "until the last moment Maurras refused to greet the dawn awaited by the entire nation—the liberation."

The 69-year-old Duc de Levis Mirepoix, historian, was taking his seat to replace Maurras among the "40 immortals".

Maurras was sentenced to life imprisonment for collaboration with the Germans and was expelled from the French Academy, official guardian of the French language.

He died at the age of 85 a few months after he was freed in 1952. — Reuter.



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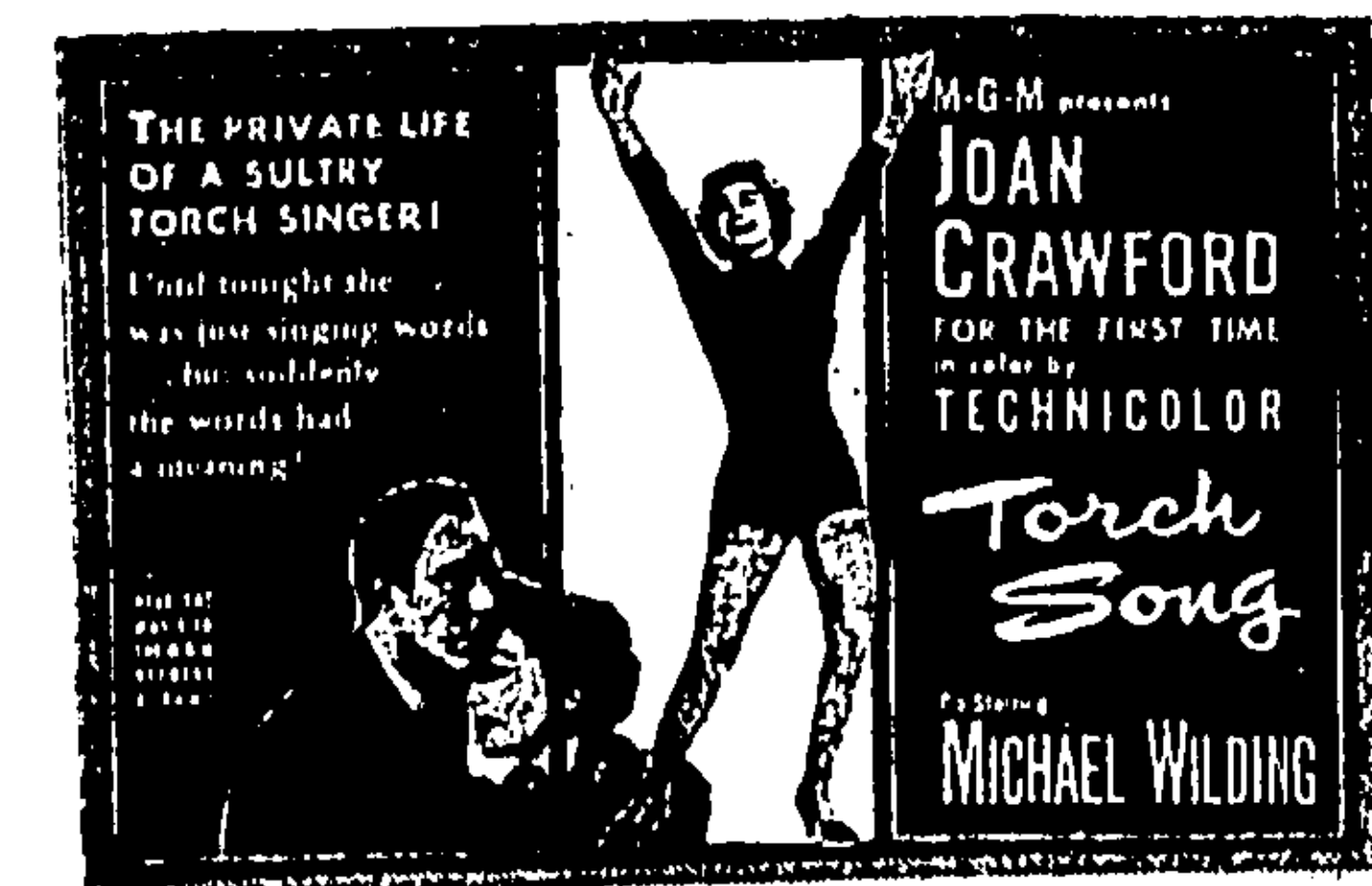
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Complimentary Tickets are not valid for this PictureDANGERS OF ATOMIC AGE
STRESSED
Japanese Envoy
Speaks Of
"Terrible Menace"

New York, Mar. 18.

Japan's newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Sadao Iguchi, warned in a speech tonight of the "unprecedented dangers of the atomic age."

"We cannot escape from the fact that all of us are living under the shadow of a terrible menace," he said.

"Every home and every community anywhere in the world—even civilization itself—will be in danger of extinction if atomic weapons should be used in another war."

"In the face of this common danger which confronts mankind, your country and mine and all who uphold the principles of humanity, morality and peace must work together to preserve our civilization."

Mr. Iguchi was addressing a meeting of the Japan Society, his first speech in the United States since being appointed Ambassador. Japan would increasingly assume the responsibility for its own defense under the terms of its security treaty and recently signed Military Aid Pact with the United States, but warned that his nation's efforts to expand its defense role might seem "unjustifiably inadequate."

He said the problem of defense was exceedingly complex for Japan.

LITTLE POSSIBILITY
The Government was faced with the "psychological demoralization" which followed the last war and the early settlement of reparations with Asian neighbour countries.

"Nor can we ignore the apprehension of some of our neighbours concerning the possible resurgence of Japanese militarism," he said.

"Even while our defence efforts might appear inadequate to some, to others it may already appear too great."

"We who know the true temper of the post-war generation of the Japanese people know how little possibility there is of militarist revival."

"Others do not and we must therefore move from circumspection."

He added: "I do not mean to offer excuses. The Japanese Government is fully committed to the building up of its defence."

Sovereignty
Of West
Germany NearLondon, Mar. 18.
The air conditioning equipment in the No. 1 court at the Old Bailey, scene of most of the big murder trials of recent years, is to be improved.

The judge complained yesterday that the court was too warm, and the jury that they were too cold, while counsel said their papers were being "fluttered about as though in a north-easter."

Last week a prisoner caught influenza.—China Mail Special.

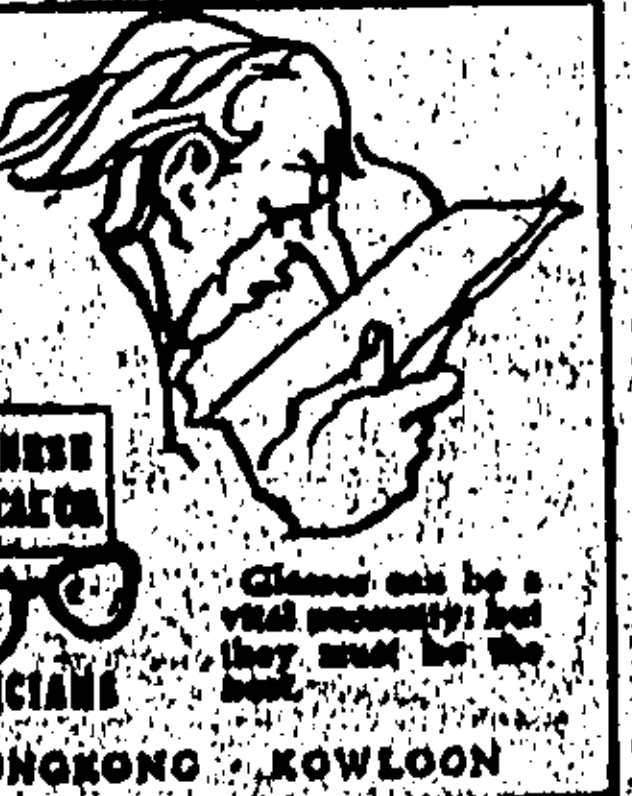
Modern Cave Artists

Chislehurst, Kent, Mar. 18.
Modern cave artists are starting work in the 22-mile labyrinth of caverns, under Chislehurst.

Permission was given today by Mr. J. Gardner, proprietor of the caves—wartime air raid shelter for 15,000 people—for a party of experienced sculptors to make carvings on the chalk walls.—China Mail Special.

Parasitic skin disease, itching, eczema etc.
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POP

Survived Until
She Was 101London, Mar. 18.
Mrs. Letitia Enright, who was thought too delicate to survive beyond childhood, died at her home here two days ago aged 101.
She insisted on helping her daughter with the house work up to two years ago.—China Mail Special.

To Help Industry

West Germany

Woos Its

Millionaires

Bonn, Mar. 18.

The success of the West German Government's tax reform proposals announced last week will depend largely on the country's estimated 200 millionaires, Finance Ministry officials said here today.

(A German millionaire is some one earning more than one million marks about £83,000 every year.)

Assuming Parliament approves the proposals as expected, millionaires will keep about a quarter of their income to dispose of as they wish.

At present they keep only about one tenth.

The Finance Minister, Herr Fritz Schaeffer, said the idea was to assist the growth of West German industry by releasing more capital.

He is relying on the millionaires to invest their money instead of indulging in a spree of luxury spending.

SO MUCH INFLUENCE

A Finance Ministry spokesman told Reuters he thought the millionaires would prefer to invest most of the freed money—they are well aware of the need to plough back their profits.

The most famous German millionaire is Alfred Krupp, the Ruhr industrial magnate. Another is A. Springer of Hamburg, owner of one of the largest West German publishing firms.

Robert Pierdemenges, who is on the boards of several large banking and industrial concerns is credited with so much influence that he has been dubbed "the Chancellor's Financial Adviser."

Such men are expected to invest on a scale which taxation has not allowed before.

But even if they spend their money on themselves instead, much of it will return to the Government through taxes on consumer goods.

55 P.C. INCOME TAX
Detailed figures show that millionaires and all those earning above 600,000 marks (about £60,000) a year will pay an average maximum of 55 per cent income tax.

In special cases it could be as high as 63 per cent.

To this must be added special taxes like those in aid of refugees in West Berlin and the churches and a supplementary tax of 2.5 per cent.

This brings the minimum taxation for millionaires up to about 75 per cent of their incomes.

At present they pay about 60 per cent.—Reuters.

RUSSIAN ELECTIONS:

New Deputies From
Georgia
After Beria Purge

Moscow, Mar. 18.

The result of Sunday's election to the Supreme Soviet issued today showed a change in the representation of the Soviet Republic of Georgia compared with the last election in 1950.

Of the 37 deputies from Georgia who will sit in the new Supreme Soviet (Russia's Legislative Assembly), 29 of them are new. Ten new deputies out of 12 represent Georgia in the Soviet (Council) of the Union and 19 new deputies out of 25 in the Soviet of Nationalities. These are the two parallel chambers of the Supreme Soviet.

(Georgia is the home state of Lavrenti P. Beria, the former Soviet secret police chief who was executed last December. Since Beria's fall last summer the state and party organisations have been rocked by a series of purges.)

The changes in the representation of Georgia in the Supreme Soviet are believed to reflect the Georgian Government within the past year.

A similar change was noted in the representation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where leaders of the Government and the Communist Party have recently been severely criticised for failure to mobilise the virgin land resources for grain cultivation.

Kazakhstan, stretching from the Caspian Sea across to the borders of China, is the second biggest Republic in the Soviet Federation. It is scheduled to play a major role in the Soviet "grow more food" campaign.)

MORE PRONOUNCED
The list published today showed 22 new deputies out of 24 elected from Kazakhstan to the Soviet of the Union and 21

new deputies out of 25 elected to the Soviet of Nationalities. Changes in representation occurred in most Soviet Republics—but those in Georgia and Kazakhstan appear to be more pronounced.

Similar changes also occurred in many electoral districts in the 1950 election compared with that in 1946.

Election returns for the Soviet of the Union showed nine new deputies out of 11 in Azerbaijan (which borders on Georgia and Persia), six new deputies out of ten in Soviet Lithuania, four new deputies out of six in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tadzhikistan and three new deputies out of five in Armenia.

Returns for the Soviet of Nationalities showed 13 new deputies out of 25 in the Russian Federation (Russia Proper) and 15 new deputies out of 25 in the Ukraine.—Reuters.

415 Million Stamps

London, Mar. 18.
Over 415 million twopenny halfpenny postage stamps were sold commemorating Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, the Postmaster General announced.—China Mail Special.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M. 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

★ SHOWING TO-DAY ★

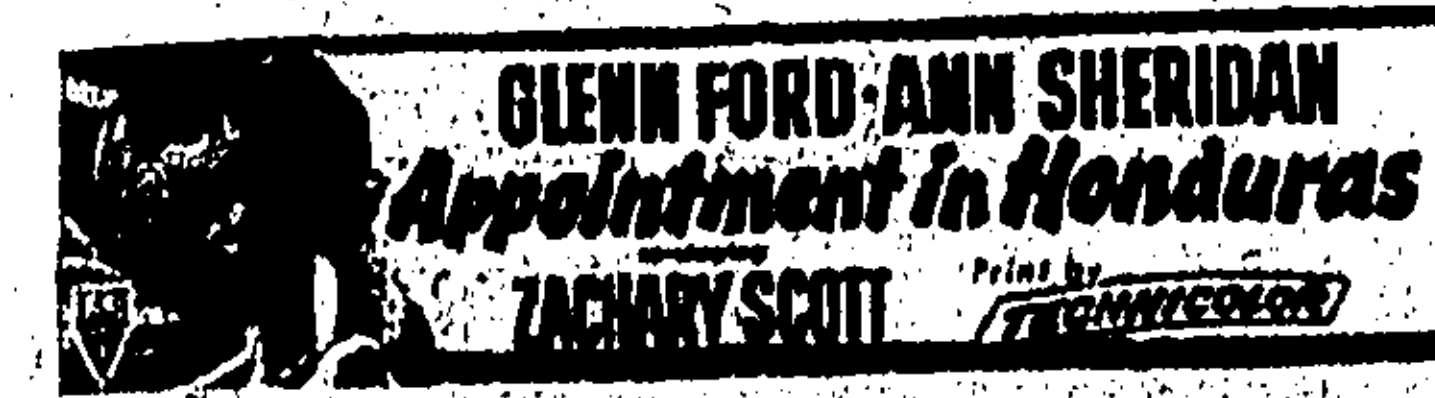
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Back Stalls: \$1.20, Front Stalls: 70 Cts.

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CHINESE OPTICAL OPTICIAN
HONGKONG KOWLOON

BIDAULT TRIES TO CONVINCE DEPUTIES

Germany Would Not Eclipse France In EDC

Paris, Mar. 18.

The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, said there was "no reason to think" that, in the projected European Defence Community, Western Germany would take so important a part as to "eclipse the role of France in Europe."

M. Bidault made this statement in a reply published tonight to seventy-two written questions by various members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly.

To one question, the French Foreign Minister said if the National Assembly did not ratify the European Defence Community Treaty, the members of the Atlantic Pact would have to furnish twelve or fifteen additional large armed units. This would represent considerable financial sacrifices and a substantial lengthening of the period of military service.

Asked if West Germany would be permitted to enter the Atlantic Pact after adherence to the EDC Treaty, M. Bidault said nothing prevented the Bonn Government from being admitted, but added that the French Parliament would retain complete liberty of say on the advisability of West Germany's admission.

The transfer to the NATO framework of a number of forces and armaments contained in the EDC Treaty would involve insurmountable difficulties, M. Bidault declared.

The finishing touches were now being given to an agreement for British association with the EDC. He recalled that Britain had indicated she could not participate as a member in the European Defence Community.

To a question by a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee as to whether, after augmentation of the EDC Treaty, West Germany would be able to set up 30 to 40 divisions, M. Bidault said this was physically impossible and declared that, according to preliminary estimates, the number of West German contingents could not reach one-third of the figure cited.

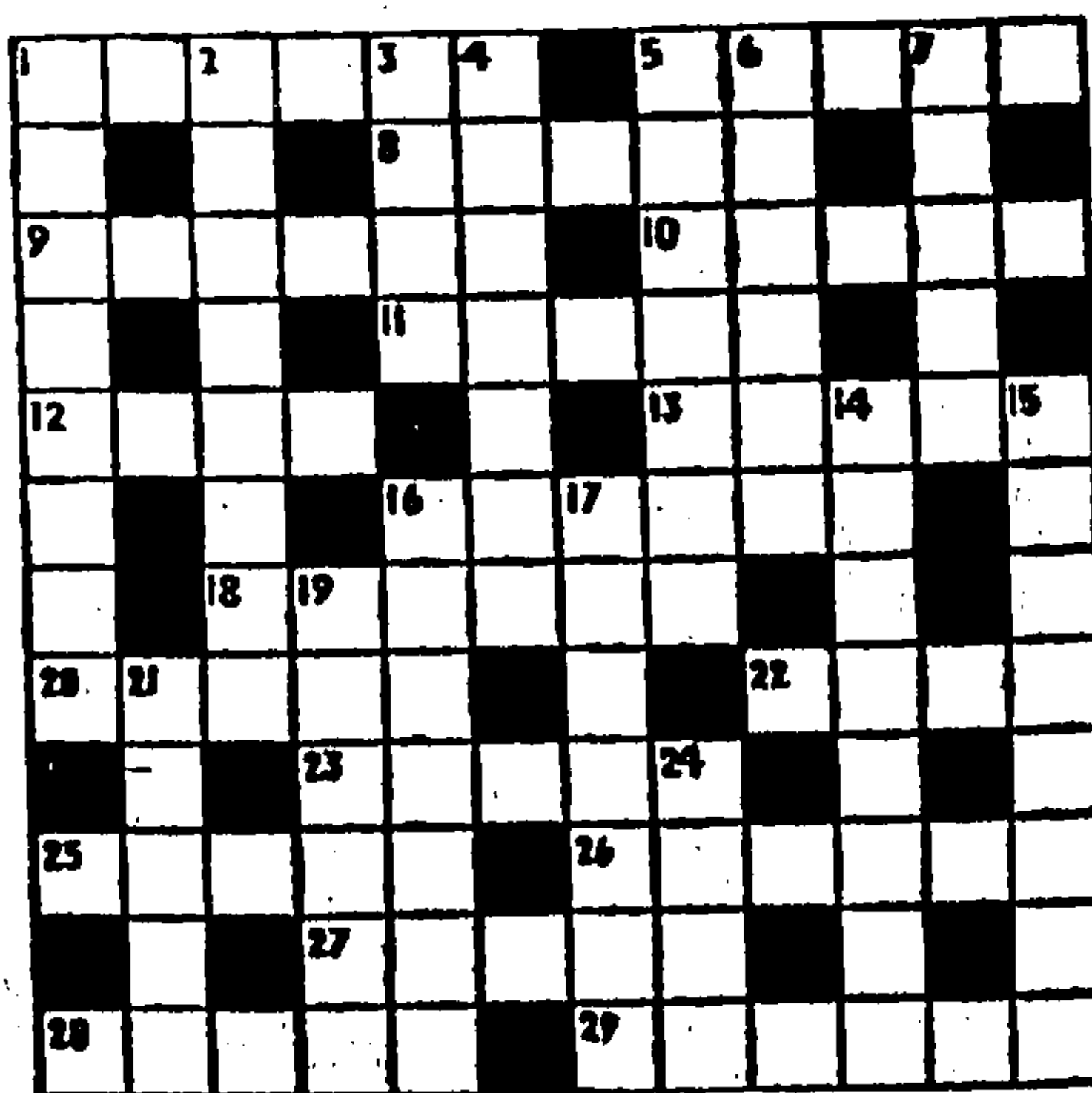
M. Bidault said if West Germany broke her commitment under the EDC, the Three Power Declaration of May 27, 1952, would go into effect, since such action would be considered "unreasonable."

An Allied delegate reiterated the United Nations position that spare parts were not reportable. He said that the Communists' own reports were "ridiculously low figure in comparison with known replacements required by an army of several hundred thousand men."

The Communists had placed "unreasonable restrictions" on members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission while they imported equipment through roads and railways which bypassed designated ports of entry, he said.

The Communists had not reported the importation of even one aircraft or an armoured vehicle, he said.—Reuter.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
1 Duplicates (6).
2 Tree (3).
3 Competitor (5).
4 Concord (5).
5 Seethes (5).
6 Flight (5).
7 Diplomacy (4).
8 Reposes (5).
9 Stop (6).
10 Thoroughfare (6).
11 Gets up (5).
12 Ado (4).
13 More recent (5).
14 Unsolved (5).
15 Stubborn (6).
16 Christmas hymn (5).
17 Harden (5).
18 Drains (5).

DOWN
1 Sovereign's attendant (8).
2 Royal lady (8).
3 God of love (4).
4 Honest (7).
5 Floor show (7).
6 Runs off (6).
7 Parcel out (5).
8 Tussle (8).
9 Goes down (8).
10 Magazine (7).
11 Church screen (7).
12 Card holding (7).
13 Creek (5).
14 Part (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1. Ballad, 3. Steps, 5. Vest, 6. Amulet, 11. Actor, 12. Direct, 13. Hill, 14. Talk, 15. Quota, 16. Dean, 20. Canada, 21. Diana, 22. Ardent, 23. Rake, 24. Dregs, 25. Employ, 26. Down, 1. Brag, 2. Loud, 3. Aye, 4. Detest, 5. Statue, 6. Orphan, 7. Straits, 10. Limit, 13. Bould, 14. Hostage, 16. Sarcas, 17. Rapid, 19. Donato, 21. Dram, 22. Deal, 23. Stay.

Paris Model In London



The swashbuckling dress and the ship-lantern earring match the Cornish half-do of lovely model Mallia, when she arrived at London Airport from Paris. Mallia modelled for M. Antonio when he took part in the hairdressing exhibition, staged in the International Salon of Beauty at Park Lane, London, recently.—Reuterphoto.

MacArthur Called To White House To Discuss Indo-China

Washington, Mar. 18.

President Eisenhower today reviewed the tense situation in Indo-China with General Douglas MacArthur.

General MacArthur who was dismissed as Supreme Far East Commander by former President Truman in 1951, went to the White House at the invitation of the President.

He conferred privately with Mr. Eisenhower, then attended a White House lunch with the President, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and Congressional leaders.

When the former Far Eastern Commander left the White House after being there for three hours, he told reporters he and the President had discussed "certain national and international affairs—the general strategic and military situation in various areas of the world."

MPs Propose Amendments To UN Charter

London, Mar. 18.

A parliamentary deputation in favour of "world government" and comprising members of all political parties today called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, to present him with suggested amendments to the United Nations Charter.

The leader of the delegation was the Labour MP Arthur Henderson, who is the President of the Friends of World Government.

Well-informed circles believe that the question of amendments to the Charter is to be included for discussion in the agenda of the 1955 General Assembly of the United Nations.

In a 50-minute interview, the "world government" group urged that the Charter be amended to include a definition of a "sovereign state" and that after that, all countries conforming to the definition should be automatically admitted to the United Nations Organisation.

They were told by Mr. Lloyd that the British government had always been in favour of an increase in the number of members of the United Nations Organisation.

DANISH JETS GROUNDED

Copenhagen, Mar. 18.

General C. C. J. Fournier, chief of the Danish air force, tonight ordered that all the training flights of jet aeroplanes be stopped as from Saturday until further notice as a result of recent accidents.

The Danish military authorities are to study closely security measures concerning "power diving and blind flying"—France-Press.

WHY WERE "OUTSIDERS" ALLOWED SO CLOSE?

Call For Inquiry Into Hydrogen Blast

Washington, Mar. 18.

Two Members of the American House of Representatives today called for a Congressional investigation to learn why almost 300 "outsiders" were allowed close enough to the March 1 hydrogen explosion in the Pacific to suffer radiation effects.

They are a Democratic member Mr. Melvin Price and a Republican Mr. James van Zandt.

The Congressmen said that the Senate-House Atomic Energy Committee, of which they are members, had already been told enough to indicate an "inexcusable error" was made in calculating the range of the blast.

"If a Japanese fishing boat could get that close apparently without detection," Mr. Price said in an interview, "there is no assurance we would have any protection against a Soviet submarine engaged in a spying operation."

He referred to 23 Japanese fishermen burned by radioactive debris on a boat 60 miles from the blast.

Both Congressmen said that the fishing vessel was outside the safety line set up in advance. So were the islands in which 28 American observers and 228 natives were subjected to less serious radiation, they said. The islands were over 100 miles away and south of the Japanese fishing boat position.—Reuter.

juries to the natives, Americans and Japanese in the area around the Pacific proving ground. He said he intends to find out who was responsible.

He said the Government should have proscribed a "hazard area" about twice as large as the one that was in effect. Japanese fishermen on the edge of the one were badly burned by radioactivity, although they were 75 miles or more from the test site.

Other Congressional sources, in the meantime, reported that another hydrogen test at the Bikini—Eniwetok proving grounds was imminent. They said it would involve a "deliverable" hydrogen bomb, which would be dropped from a plane.

To enable the plane to escape the blast, it would be necessary to lower the bomb by parachute, these sources said.

The sources reported that the device exploded on March 1 was not a "deliverable" bomb in the sense usually understood. In other words, it was not of a size and weight to be carried to its target by plane.

They said a far more destructive device will be exploded later in the test series some time next month.—United Press.

600 A-bombs

He confirmed earlier estimates, from Congressional sources that could not be named, that the March 1 blast loosed destructive energy equal to from 12,000,000 to 14,000,000 tons of TNT—the equivalent of at least 600 of the old-fashioned A-bombs that wrecked two Japanese cities in World War II.

He sharply criticised the test authorities for failing to take adequate precautions against injuries.

French Murder Trial

"Letters Were Planted In Her Cell"

Bordeaux, Mar. 18.

Attorneys for Marie Besnard, now on trial for her life for the poison murder of six relatives, contended today that incriminating letters written by their client had been suggested by fellow inmates and "planted" in her cell by the authorities.

Today was the third session of the trial which has attracted a large audience in the Bordeaux Court of Assizes.

The letters were regarded as containing statements clearly indicating that the woman was guilty.

The lawyers said women were put into Marie Besnard's cell to "spy" on her in the hope of getting their sentence reduced as a reward.

Prison officials contended they were placed there to prevent Marie Besnard from carrying out a threat to commit suicide.

As for Marie Besnard herself, she stated that she was "beaten" into writing the famous letters.—France-Press.

Smallest Cyclotron

Berkeley, California, Mar. 18.

The University of California claims that it has developed the world's smallest cyclotron.

Professor Charles Kittle disclosed yesterday that a tin machine had been built in the hope of developing better electrical conductors and resistors.

The cyclotron will smash atoms. Its purpose is to whirl electrons inside a solid to determine its electrical conductivity.—United Press.

St. Patrick's And All That

Pittsfield, Mass., Mar. 18.
Karl W. Steison, a dry cleaning shop manager admitted today that he had been "taken to the cleaners."
He offered on St. Patrick's Day to effect any green wearing apparel. Some 7,000 items were received.—United Press.

UN Secretary Says

"We Must Go On Negotiating"

London, Mar. 18.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, said today even if the Geneva conference should fail, the principle of negotiations should not be given up.

Mr. Hammarskjöld, speaking at a dinner of the Pilgrims Society, said that it was inherent in the United Nations Charter that the two warring sides should meet regularly at the conference table.

He said although the Geneva conference talks might be of "extreme difficulty," the negotiations should not be called off, if it was found impossible, for instance, to draw up a peace treaty quickly for Korea.

He said the United Nations Charter should be accepted as a statement of the principles and aims rather than a constitution valid for the whole world.

Mr. Hammarskjöld said the United Nations was neither a super-state nor a world government. The charter was a compromise, he said, and one of its main objectives was to create a state of differing political backgrounds should get together and settle disputes by peaceful means.

"We need to banish resolutely from our minds," said Mr. Hammarskjöld, "any idea that the United Nations can by legislative action preserve peace or guarantee a better and more secure future for the peoples who compose it."

The United Nations Secretary-General said that those who planned the Korean war made two grave miscalculations. They calculated that the world could be persuaded to regard this as a civil war instead of an attack upon an independent nation that would make, in effect, a war of the international community by a majority of the United Nations, he said.

They also saw the United Nations without power to resist the aggression in any case, for the cold war had indefinitely postponed the conclusion of agreements that would have placed the international military forces at the disposal of the Security Council.

Resistance in Korea had been a significant step towards the goal of genuine collective security as a precedent which provided a better and more powerful deterrent against another such aggression anywhere in the world.—France-Press.

Dulles To Review US Foreign Policy

Washington, Mar. 18.

The position of the United States at the Geneva conference and the impact of the Indo-China war on the United States are among the topics expected to be discussed by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, when he testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee here on Friday. It was learned here on Thursday night.

Great significance was attached to his testimony by political and diplomatic circles here. It was pointed out that the hearing would constitute the first public review of American foreign policy since the Eisenhower administration took over power in January, 1953.

It was believed that the committee would also discuss the prospects of the European defence community treaty.—France-Press.

From His Sickbed Alvin Bentley Says:

"I Bear No Malice To The Puerto Ricans Who Wounded Me"

Washington, Mar. 18.

Representative Alvin M. Bentley (Republican, Michigan) said he bore no malice towards the four Puerto Ricans who fired into the House of Representatives.

Mr. Bentley, the most seriously wounded of five Congressmen shot in the assault, said the Puerto Ricans were "misled by a fanatical leader." He said he was alive because of "my doctors, my constitution and the prayers of the thousands of friends."

Mr. Bentley said in a bedside television interview. He said he was "a bit of a shot" when the shooting broke out at the first thought of a "group of Mexicans" protesting in the House gallery. The House was voting at the time on a Mexican Labour Immigration Bill.

He appeared in good spirits and condition during the interview in his room at the Casualty Hospital here.—United Press.



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SOCIETY

FLAG DAY

SATURDAY, 20th MARCH
PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

FRANCE'S DON CAMILLO

From Sydney Smith

Paris. A VILLAGE priest who denounced from his pulpit the existence of purgatory is France's new Don Camillo.

You remember the film of Don Camillo the fighting priest who fought nobly, dangerously, yet with affection against his Communist parishioners? Well, in the cider-drinking country of Brittany there is another priest and his villagers at war with Rome and Moscow.

It's a life and death struggle that has aroused all France.

The hamlet of Landebia—population 382—hardly stirred when its popular and tough young priest, 32-year old Abbe Lammay, stood up in his pulpit one Sunday.

He said that he still believed in heaven and hell. Then he told his flock he had lost faith in the intervening stage of purgatory—a kind of crossroads for those going to heaven and those doomed to hell.

The people were not upset. But his local bishop of Saint-Brieuc was shocked and very shocked. He sent for the Abbe at once.

TOO MUCH

The young priest was "invited" to think things over in a monastery. He refused. And the very next Sunday he invited a lay friend and sympathiser to preach the sermon from his pulpit.

This was a great deal too much for the Bishop. He suspended the Abbe from parochial duties, and named an older priest—Abbe Robert—to take over.

But Abbe Lammay decided to fight on. He obtained from the Town Hall authority to stay in his vicarage. He held a "rebel Mass," while the new arrival held his own official Mass.

The parish of Landebia was split. The young Abbe was supported by his organist and his church wardens and most of the village. So the new incumbent found his own organist and other church wardens. The village was so intrigued by the battle that the church was full for every service, and curious folk from the neighbouring countryside took Mass with both priests—from 6.30 in the morning onwards.

The young Abbe Lammay—who still refuses to believe in purgatory—is winning. His church salary has been stopped. But he is sticking to his vicarage, with the backing of the Socialist Mayor.

FLAT OUT

He has no money, but every day faithful parishioners, who do not believe in purgatory either, are bringing him up eggs, chicken, milk and meat so that one man can eat.

The police, embarrassed by a request to investigate his illegal occupation of the vicarage, do not know what to do with him. When his rival, honest Abbe Robert, holds services, the church is stoned. There are broken windows left unbroken. Leftist political meetings are held on the church steps of the young Abbe, who has never had a political thought in his head.

And the local Socialists—with a strong smattering of Communists—are flat out for the young man.

They are so flat out for him that they have drawn up a petition on his behalf. And to his great embarrassment they have produced 600 votes in his support—although his parishioners number only 382.

This problem alone may be enough to persuade the young Abbe that purgatory is indeed true.

POCKET CARTOON by OSBERT LANCASTER



"It might interest you to know, Mr. Lancaster, that I presented this picture to the Times in 1947!"



London Express Service

FIRST OF A NEW TWO-PART STUDY

ARE THE RUSSIANS FREEING CULTURE?

By David Laidlaw

THE so-called "liberalisation" of the arts recently begun in Soviet Russia has disclosed in its wake a state of affairs more serious than had been imagined. Evidence of the ideological and bureaucratic stranglehold exercised on the country's artistic development by the notorious, Zhdanov-inspired Central Committee decrees of 1946-48, has never been lacking, but it has remained for the Russians themselves to depict the full extent of their paralysing influence.

Striking revelations have emerged from recent statements by four of Russia's leading cultural exponents—Aram Khachaturian, the Armenian composer, once denounced by Zhdanov as a "formalist" together with Shostakovich, Prokofiev, and Minkovsky; Ilya Ehrenburg, the writer and publicist; Konstantin Simonov, deputy Secretary-General of the All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers; and the Secretary-General himself, Alexander Fadeev.

Each of these statements is notably outspoken, and it is clear that in order to emphasise this new deviation in policy the Party has granted its most prominent cultural spokesmen more than the customary latitude.

Khachaturian's indictment of Zhdanovism, as it has affected musical composition, appears in an article in the November 1953 issue of Soviet Music, entitled "Creative Boldness and Inspiration." Without actually disavowing the doctrine of Socialist realism, which was the keynote of Zhdanov's cultural policy, Khachaturian carries to remarkable lengths his condemnation of its unlimited application and its stultifying effect on creative impulse.

For Safety

HE describes how, scared of doing the wrong thing, composers played for safety at all costs. "... they assumed positions of thoughtless adaptability (to the Zhdanov decree), and were producing flat, conventionalised, lacking in all creative individuality and characterised by second-hand musical phraseology."

Monumental works resounding with emptiness, writes Khachaturian, repeatedly won official approval solely because their titles contained something about "Love for the Soviet Homeland" or "The Struggle for Peace," though with the public they evoked little, if any, response, and were soon forgotten. Khachaturian strikes a significant note when he appeals for a revival of "revolutionary romanticism" in the Soviet art—an appeal echoed by Simonov in his nostalgic harking back to the "golden age of Soviet realism" between 1920 and 1941. "In each man's words is a realisation of a once-powerful mystique long since blown out of existence by measure after measure of reactionary control—a mystique which lost a positive, crusading vigour to the arts, and made them a formidable instrument of the State."

A Parallel

AN amusing parallel, as it affects the painter, appears in a set of two illustrations by I. Semyonov, in the April 1953 issue of Ogonyok. The first of these depicts the artist's original interpretation of Nekrasov's lines, "Go to the Volga—whose green rebores there?"

A procession of dismal, ragged peasants, or maybe fisherfolk, roped one to another, are painfully dragging a boat up the beach from the water's edge. The prevailing mood is one of sombre realism, very much in the Victorian manner and well fitted to the caption. Before the pictures stands the artist, facing a panel of critics.

The second illustration shows the revised version of the same picture, executed in accordance with the critics' advice. In the style of a poster advertising a popular coastal resort, it portrays a laughing procession of holiday-makers happily harassed by a band of fluttering, festive ribbon, drawing behind them up the beach a glittering pleasure steamer, while from a nearby booth a woman runs towards them with a tray of refreshments and, beyond a group of sunbathers, three smiling faces in salute as they pass. Held aloft above the procession is a banner inscribed "Overfulfill the Volga Shipments Plan!"

Watchdogs

LIKE Khachaturian, Ehrenburg indignantly demands the removal of restraints from the creative artist, though, misleadingly, he attributes the entire blame for his present condition to the critics as if they were independent voices instead of mere executives of the Writers' or Composers' Unions. This, when it is common knowledge that all the so-called "five-year plan literature" was ordered from "above," and though these critics were simply the appointed watchdogs for the plan.

Many hundreds of books have been written in the last few years which, because they have failed to satisfy the regime, have been laid down in these garbled men's hands, have never had

the least chance of being published. Ehrenburg is well acquainted with this, but he offers no hint that their fate will be reviewed under the terms of the "new enlightenment."

Yet the desire boldly set forth in his statement, as in those of his fellow spokesmen, is for a varied presentation of Soviet life in contrast to the rigid, uniform style imposed by Zhdanov.

Party Line

WHAT if the suppressed books were really "moral" and "introspective?" We will make every effort, writes Simonov, "to respond worthily to the demands of the Party, to the demands of the people. We will respond with our plays to the questions of life, work, friendship, love and way of life which agitate Soviet people. Have morbidity and introspection truly no place in the emotions of the Russian people?"

It is this prescribed attitude towards the human emotions which has so perturbed the dramatists, whose deference to this aspect of the Party line led them into one of the major failures of their art. For, without acceptance of the full range of emotion and behaviour there can be no portrayal of "light and shade," while conflict, the life-blood of the drama, disappears altogether.

It has become impossible to introduce the elements of conflict by staging such characters as a stupid official, a lazy militiaman, or a conciliated bureaucrat, since to do so is, in the official view, to typify a phenomenon—thus condemning all officials, all militiamen, and all bureaucrats.

Soviet Man

EVEN such a perennial standby for the role of villain as the "bourgeois nationalist" or the "homeless cosmopolitan" no longer seems to match the need since, according to the Literary Gazette, Soviet critics regularly complain that the villain in such cases is much more convincingly drawn, much more attractive to the average spectator than the wooden automaton who goes under the title of "Soviet man."

The idealistic conception of the "New Soviet Man" has come home to roost, with a vengeance. As one sarcastic Moscow theatre critic has put it: "There is no longer any place for drama in our Socialist 'fiction' in our everyday life to provide material."

In the place of the legitimate drama, comedy and, above all, satire (which could not conceivably flourish under such conditions), dramatists who wanted to live have been compelled to devote themselves to plays about collective farms and industrial enterprises where language is used which the spectator can understand. Only by bringing with him pocket handbooks on the technical and agronomic disciplines under discussion (Lavrenko, at the Writers' Union of Soviet Writers)

Of the technical incompetence of contemporary Soviet drama Lavrenko has some equally harsh things to say:

"The majority of authors, though possessing lively and interesting ideas, have no conception of the basic elements of a dramatic work: of genre, subject, exposition, plot, action, climax, denouement, image or character."

Simonov, after a series of admissions as amazing as Lavrenko's, testifies to an almost unbelievable absurdity. So ready, it seems, were some authors to "meet the contradictory demands of different theatres"—most of which yielded to every pressure by the local Arts Administration—that they cheerfully composed several variations on one and the same play, each with a different title, with the result that, to pick out only one instance, a play by A. Simukov was to be seen at two Moscow theatres under different titles, "and already," according to Simonov, "the protests of audiences are spreading, since in their simplicity they have been twice to see the same play."

What will be the ultimate result of the present campaign only time alone can show. Certain it is that the authorities have seen the red light. A great apathy has descended on the Soviet artist and his public alike. Fadeev himself has confessed only recently to a start-

ling decline both in membership and interest experienced by the Writers' Union. Something, it is clear, has to be done. Culture is too valuable a field for the ideologists to leave much longer in its present state. But to what extent can reforms really be instituted?

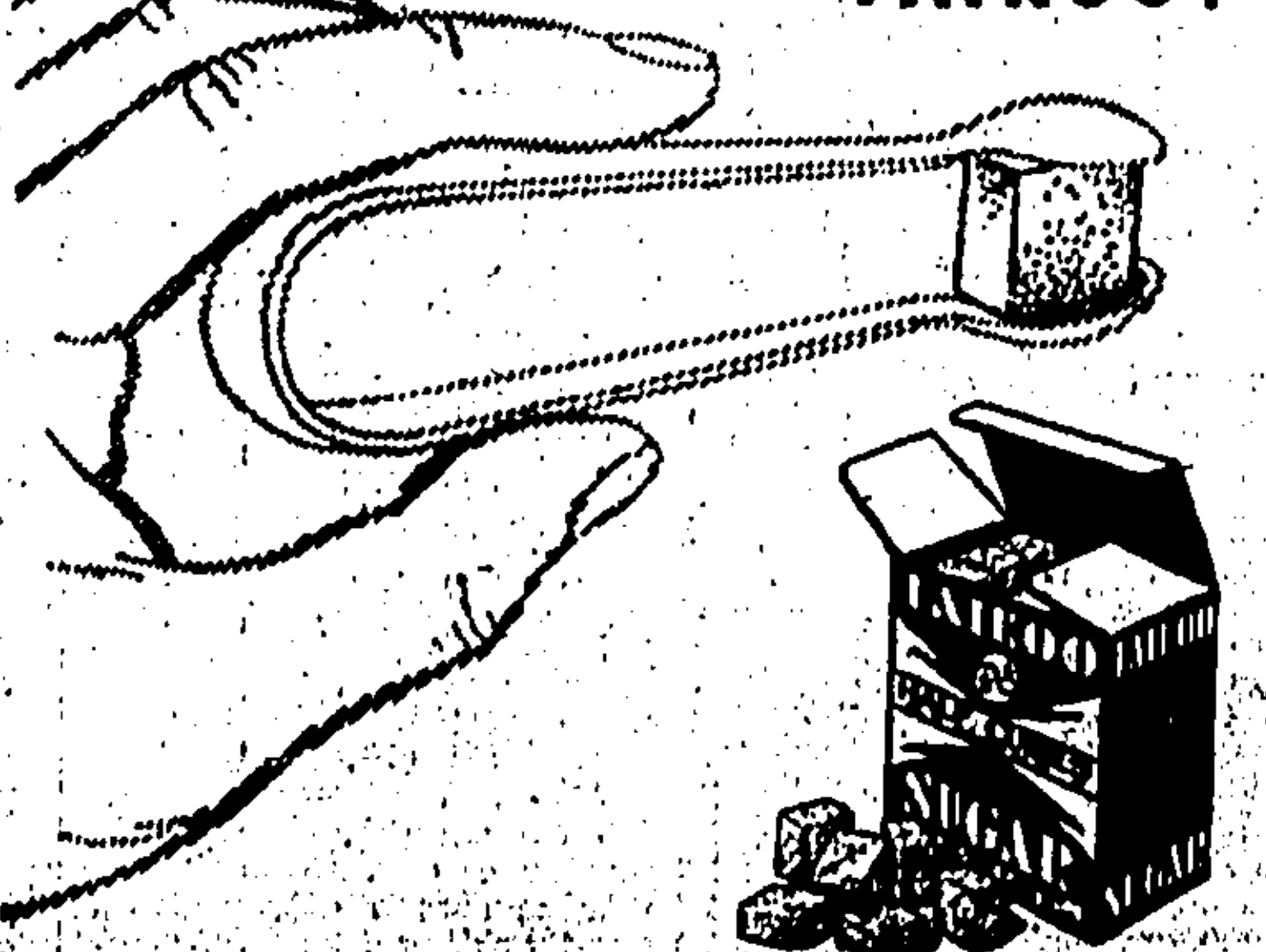
Meaningless

SO far all that the campaign has effected is a slight relaxation of the controls on the actual treatment of material. The material itself is still rigidly prescribed. Yet it is difficult to see how much more can be done without producing a clash between the artist's individual utterances and the unchanged fundamental doctrines which regulate the Soviet State as a whole.

Certainly to talk about "liberalisation" without so much as a hint of such freedoms as freedom to travel, freedom of translation, freedom of expression, and freedom of publication (to mention only a few) is meaningless. And what is one to make of the contradictory recommendation made only recently by a contributor to Soviet Culture, the official organ of the USSR Ministry of Culture? This writer suggested that the Russian classics should be revised for general consumption, "rendering them free from the errors and numerous distortions consciously introduced into pre-revolutionary editions...."

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HOCKEY INTERNATIONAL

TWO PLUCKY GOALS IN THE LAST QUARTER SAVE ENGLAND

Both England and Pakistan yesterday survived their semi-final match of the International Hockey Tournament to fight it out another day for the right to meet Portugal in the final.

A speedy, youthful and enterprising Pakistan XI scored two goals in the first half and a fighting and a determined England XI came back from the shadow of defeat to equalise with two plucky goals in the last quarter of the game.

Fought out at a tremendous pace, the match saw Pakistan, with most of the players having played together in the League, enjoying a distinct advantage in understanding and co-ordination.

This was especially evident in the forward line where the fast, sweeping moves of the Pakistan forwards, time and again, spelled danger to the English goal.

A Wahab at centre-forward led the attack ably and proved himself a fine opportunist in scoring one of the goals, but with a little more steadiness on his part, and a little more luck he could have well sealed the fate of the English side by converting two more especially fine chances that came his way, one in the first half and another in the second.

The two wings, Omar and Yusuf, each showed a fast pair of heels and proved themselves a constant menace to the English defence with well-directed centres. In the inside positions Pakistan was well served by Ebrahim and Dalish.

If the Pakistan forwards showed a little weakness with their erratic tendencies, the fault was more glaring among the English forwards who very seldom throughout the game could exert themselves as an attacking unit.

Their first goal, which came in the 20th minute of the second half, was largely the result of a brilliant individual effort by Smith while their second and equalising goal seven minutes from full time was scored from a short corner.

They dominated with bustling tactics and hard hitting, but for the greater part of the game their inability to get the ball well under control and find their men with accurate passes nullified the grand efforts of their defence in which the half-line, led by centre-half Petterson, stood out.

The defences of both teams stood up remarkably well to the occasion and it was England's slight superiority in this department that saved them the day.

Of the full-backs Pakistan's Khan brothers, Farid Khan and Yakub Khan, stood up as well as their vis-a-vis, Taylor and Dewar, and were seen in some very fine clearances and opportunistic tackling.

It was in the half line that Pakistan showed a weak link. Wahab, Yusuf and Hussain gave a sparkling exhibition of grit and determination. In the first half, but played themselves out towards the end for lack of that little extra of experience in positional play that would have put down tremendously their exertions.

Pakistan were the more deserving team to win yesterday's match and on their performance are very likely to be the survivors in the return which has been fixed for next Thursday.

THE GOALS

England assumed the offensive from the bully-off but found themselves up against a stout defence with the two full-backs, Farid Khan and Yakub Khan, time and again, coming into the picture with timely tackle and clearances.

A long clearance along the right touch line provided the opening for Pakistan's first goal in the 17th minute. Right-winger Omar succeeded in reaching for the ball after a good sprint. His centre towards the "D" was nicely passed by Ebrahim to Wahab who drove the ball past an un-sighted Boxall into the net.

Soon afterwards Pakistan increased their lead after Wahab had muffed an easy chance in front of the goalmouth. A short-corner resulted in a melee in front of the goalmouth from which centre-half Yusuf managed to send through a rising shot that Boxall failed to see as it sped past him.

Half time came with England just managing to hold Pakistan down to a 2-0 lead.

On the resumption Pakistan again went into the attack and were unfortunate in just failing to put the issue beyond doubt when Wahab turned in a perfect centre from the right-wing only to see the ball hit the upright and deflect out of play.

England's fighting spirit was seen at its best at this stage as they began planning the Pakistan team down in their own half and succeeded in breaking through the defence in the 20th minute of the second half.

Smith gained possession of the ball in the "D" after a scuffle and though in an awkward position managed to flick the ball past Kader from a yard's distance.

England's push, stop and hit sequence from a short-corner enabled them to equalise just seven minutes before the end with Taylor putting in the finishing touch with a rasping drive.

THE TEAMS

Pakistan: Kader, F. Khan, Y. Khan, M. A. Wahab, E. Yusuf, T. Hussain, M. Omar, H. K. Ebrahim, A. Wahab, Dalish and M. Yusuf.

England: Boxall, Taylor, Dewar, Andrews, Petterson, Foster, Anthony, Smith, Peatery, Teyen.

TEST MATCH

WEST INDIES 546 For 5

Port of Spain, Trinidad, Mar. 18.

Aided by a third wicket stand of 338, the West Indies today brought their score to 546 for the loss of five wickets on the second day of the fourth Test against England.

This is the highest Test score by the West Indies against England in the West Indies, beating the 535 made at Kingston in 1935.

Everton Weekes made 200 and Worrell 107 in their marathon stand. Resuming at 204 for two in bright sunshine, the two batsmen were in a good position to force the pace but were let down for long spells by defensive bowling from Bailey and Lock.

The crowd of over 20,000 grew restless as Bailey persisted in bowling well wide of the off-stump.

Weekes reached 150 in four hours and 10 minutes, hitting 19 fours, while Worrell completed his century in just over four hours.

Brian Statham, England pace bowler, who yesterday injured a rib muscle, did not field today after visiting hospital for treatment.

At the close Walcott was not out 70 and Atkinson not out five.

THE SCOREBOARD

West Indies, 1st Innings				
Trueman	40		
Stollmeyer, c and b.	41		
Compton	40		
Weekes, c Bailey & Lock	200		
Worrell, b. Lock	107		
Walcott, not out	70		
Palmer, run out	5		
Atkinson, not out	5		
Extras	17		
Total (for five wickets) 546				
Fall of wickets: 1/78; 2/93; 3/430; 4/517; 5/540.				
Bowling				
	O	M	R	W
Statham	9	0	31
Trueman	37	1	118
Bailey	32	7	104
Lock	41	7	135
Worrell	11	1	12
Compton	8	1	24

By Order of the Stewards, E. M. S. A.

EXTRA CHESS JUDGE



Mr. Harry Golombek, of Chalfont, St. Giles, Buckinghamshire, 43-year-old former British Chess Champion, pictured at London Airport as he boarded a KLM liner for Amsterdam on his way to Moscow where he is presiding as supreme judge of the World Chess Championship match between Mikhail Botvinnik and Vassily Smyslov.

The invitation to Mr. Golombek came from the International Chess Federation at the suggestion of Botvinnik and Smyslov. The Championship — a 24-game series — will last with intervals until May 11. Mr. Golombek, who speaks Russian, will receive no pay for his services, but his expenses are being paid by the Federation. — Renterphoto.

Eddy Choong Only Malayan To Reach Semi-finals

London, Mar. 18.

Ong Poh Lim and H. E. Heah of Malaya joined their compatriot, Eddy Choong, the holder, in the last eight of the Men's Singles in the All-England Badminton Championships today, but were both eliminated in the next round.

Ong had an easy 15-3 and 15-5 third round win over R. J. Lockwood, England, and Heah, last year's runner-up, beat the promising 18-year-old Finn Kobbero of Denmark, 17-14 and 15-5.

Ong Poh Lim, with accurately placed shots, outclassed Lockwood who was kept hopelessly chasing about the court. Ong's greater experience and forceful style enabled him to dictate the play.

Heah overcame an early backhand weakness to eliminate Kobbero for whom experts predict a great future. After taking the first four points, Heah was repeatedly outmanoeuvred on his backhand, and Kobbero went ahead 13-12.

Tightening up his game, Heah levelled at 14-11 and then forced the Dane into errors with three fine placements.

Heah continued to improve in the second game, his change of pace causing Kobbero to net or hit out.

QUARTER-FINALS
Eddy Choong (Malaya, holder) beat P. Grandlund (Denmark) 15-8, 8-15 and 15-12 in a quarter-final match.

Choong had to fight for every point against Grandlund, who had eliminated seeded player Jeff Robson (New Zealand) in an earlier round.

The Dane led 6-1 in the first game before Choong settled down. The Malayan quickly pulled up and won the game 15-9.

Choong won the first point in the second game, but the Dane took the initiative and held it almost continually. The Dane also got off to a good start in the final game with Choong trailing a point behind in a grim struggle before the scores were levelled at eight-all.

Grandlund smashed forcibly and clever placements had Choong chasing about the court. A change in racket brought a change of fortune for Choong. He forged steadily ahead to clinch the game and match at 15-12.

In the other quarter-finals, D. Smythe (Canada) beat H. A. Heah (Malaya) 15-9 and 15-11. P. Holm (Denmark) defeated Ong Poh Lim (Malaya) 15-7, 7-15 and 15-12.

Heah was very inaccurate against Smythe. The Malayan attempted to beat the Canadian taking the first four points, but lost many points by hitting out. Trailing from the start, he played best in the second game when he switched to the net from the baseline and drew up from 8-14 to 11-14 before going down.

HOLM BEATS ONG
Ong Poh Lim, Malayan seed, was eliminated by the experienced Holm in a tight match. The Malayan's overhead play was far superior, but he lost points on many netting errors.

Holm, who is competing in his eighth consecutive Championships, was trailing all through the third game until he levelled at 12-all.

Some furious rallies at close quarters followed with Ong Poh Lim the first to weaken and failing to get another point.

Mandu Nataraj, 20-year-old Indian Singles Champion from Bombay, was beaten 15-8 and 15-6 by Joergen Hammergaard Hansen of Denmark, an unseeded player who yesterday eliminated the seeded Oot Telk Hock of Malaya, showed a wider variety of strokes and frequently drew Nataraj out of position. The Indian also could find no answer to Hansen's powerful hitting.

Nataraj trailed from the start, losing the first four points and often netted when trying to tempt Hansen up to the net. — Reuter.

Tomorrow's Chances At The Valley

By "RAPIER"

The Hongkong Jockey Club's Ninth Race Meeting will be held over two consecutive Saturday afternoons, the first tomorrow and the second on March 27. There are nine races to tomorrow. The first saddling-bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. each day. Tomorrow, the best event is the Shaikwan Handicap, confined to Class 2 ponies to be contested in two sections over the two-mile post.

Here are my estimates of the chances:

FIRST RACE

Tai Hang Handicap: One Mile. The programme opens with an event confined to Class 8 ponies. A dispute of superiority will be settled between Same Again (Mr. Plumby) and The Stranger (Mr. Alex Lam) in this race.

It will be recalled that the former managed to squeeze through an inside opening to beat the latter by one clear length over the two-mile post at the last meeting.

Their chief worry has been presented by the presence of Ann Hing (Mr. Kwok) which has improved in the a.m. gallops and should give a good account of itself.

For outsiders I will look towards Santa Claus (Mr. Samarc) and Valbridge (Mr. S. W. Tang).

SECOND RACE

Hok Un Handicap: Six Furlongs. Ben Ledl (Mr. Tsai), although promoted in class on account of its win in the North Pass Handicap over this distance at the last meeting, is still maintaining its good form and should have a good chance of registering another win tomorrow.

Given a decent start, a very fit Speedy Roger, Kwok up, is able to upset Ben Ledl in this six-furlong dash.

Tracy Grey, Chun Kit up, has improved much, and this combination should be attractive.

For big money, I suggest an impressive Phoenix with C. A. Lee astride.

THIRD RACE

Shaikwan Handicap (First Section) From 2-Mile Post. Half Moon Bay Kwok up, presents a handsome proposition here as the pony has shown great improvement and should start as firm favourite.

Position is expected from Top Secret (Chun Kit) which has put on a lot of condition after several disappointing races. I am of the opinion that it stands a very good chance to chalk up a belated triumph.

Straight Forward (Mr. Peter Wei) and Bankfoot (Mr. Samarc) are good over this distance and should have some say in this race.

FOURTH RACE

Mongkok Plate: From 1½-Mile Post. This sprint race is confined to 1954 Subscription ponies. Ponies which have won \$1,250 or more in stakes are barred.

Walsam (Mr. Yen Ching-lan), as it came in fourth in the Wetherby Stakes over six furlongs at the Seventh Race Meeting, should have a great opportunity of scoring a win here.

Char Ting (Mr. Plumby) is also in the race in view of his win in 2.05.3—last quarter 28 seconds—on March 10.

Beautiful Phoenix (Mr. Gregory) and Senorita (Mr. Oliveira) are recommended for placings.

Jungle Queen (Mr. Hsu) is good to follow as an outsider.

FIFTH RACE

Shaikwan Handicap (Second Section) From 2-Mile Post. The second section of Class 2 ponies will contest this event.

Babbie (Mr. Peter Wei), in view of his fine gallops on Wednesday, March 10, in the second time of 2.00.2—last quarter 27.3 seconds—should have no difficulty in winning.

The difficulty, however, is to nominate the second and third ponies. I expect Kentucky Lad (Mr. Ng) to run off into a big lead but it will not have sufficient stamina to last the distance.

Gabriel: Jinks (Mr. Chuang) should fill second place as it is quite good over this distance.

I look to Squadron Leader (Mr. Kwok) and Clonicle (Mr. Samarc) to fight out the other minor position.

SIXTH RACE

Looking over the entries for this sprint event, Diana (Mr. Samarc), which was second in the North Pass Handicap over six furlongs at the last meeting, seems to be the best bet for a win.

The danger, of course, is Minola (Mr. Kwok), which has been running well during morning gallops and this com-

bination should not be ignored.

Exquisite Love (Mr. Chuang) has shown rapid improvement during morning gallops and it should be very near at the finish.

SEVENTH RACE

Clings 5 ponies will battle out the finish in this event. Although many will place their faith in Great Conqueror (Mr. Williams) on account of its win in the Mount Kellet Handicap over this distance at the last meeting for Class 7 ponies with Mr. Samarc up, I prefer Cleopatra (Mr. Botche) which was second in the Smugglers' Pass Handicap, on account of its fitness at the moment during morning gallops.

I think Great Conqueror should finish second and Marine Changer (Mr. Samarc) third.

In view of Adorable Ada's disappointing form at previous meetings I can hardly be expected to recommend it for a win, but there is no doubt that this pony has been improving and a win sooner or later is indicated. It will again be taken out by Mr. Tsai tomorrow afternoon.

EIGHTH RACE

Salvington Handicap: From 1½-Mile Post. I don't think I shall be far wrong in stating that the ponies to watch in this race are Lassie (Mr. Samarc), Aesthete (Mr. Chuang), Matador (Mr. Ng) and Three Stars (Mr. Kwok).

Lassie, judging from its third placing in the Quarry Bay Handicap over this distance at the Sixth Race Meeting, should have a good chance of winning, but Aesthete is not to be ignored as this pony can move fast and the distance is to its liking.

Matador, with Mr. F. Noddy up, did not impress in its last outing, but it may do better tomorrow with a change in the jockey department. Three Stars can move fairly fast and may provide an upset as it is specially reserved by its connections in this race.

NINTH RACE

Shamshipo Handicap: From 2-Mile Post. This is the last race of the day and will be contested by Class 9 ponies.

The Aussies were the faster, but there was a lot of poor passing in the three-line and there seemed to be only Hoole capable of breaking through the RAF backs.

The visitors make up a good team, but not up to Colony standard, and though they should beat all their opponents in their next two games they would not stand up to an Army team.

Today they are again playing at Kai Tak, this time against HMS Newcastle, as the Welsh have had to call off.

The game yesterday started well and the first score came from a penalty awarded on the RAF 25. The kick was neatly dropped between the posts.

Then gradually the RAF got going and Davidson, who forced rush Davidson went over in the corner. The kick was missed 3-3.

Play ranged back and forth for some time with the Aussies spilling many chances until Hoole got away through the centre and scored. The kick was missed 6-3.

The final score in the first half came from a line-out. The ball went to the Aussie wing and he evaded four tackles and scored in the corner. The RAF marking at this point was very bad indeed 9-3.

SECOND HALF

In the second half the first score came when Davidson kicked a penalty, and shortly after Hurst of the RAF nearly broke through, but was unfortunately injured in the attempt and had to leave the field. This put a strain on the RAF, and the next score therefore came to no surprise when Hoole again broke through and passed out to the right wing who went over in the corner. The kick was missed 12-6.

Then in the middle of the field McKenzie of the RAF intercepted a pass and went out to pass to Bowler who scored. The kick was missed 12-9.

The final score came again from Hoole who ran across the field and beat four men to score. The kick was converted.

On the whole a good game, and a little tightening up on the Aussies' passing would transform them into a first class team.

The RAF definitely missed Milson and their last find, Eden, who is still in hospital, and their tackling was not as good as expected. Their play was at times ragged.

The Newcastle game tomorrow should give the Aussies some strong opposition and be well worth the journey to see.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS

Shaikwan Handicap (Mar. 24)
10-1 Monsieur Iv
10-9 Dunbar
10-7 Arctic Bay
10-6 Nahar and Romany
10-5 Minstral

20-1 Desert Way, Selling Light, Charles Manneville, Postman's Path and Svalbardier
25-1 Ambassador Court
28-1 Langton, Big, Brawny Scot, Chivalry and Wallack's Tower

33-1 Magic Circle
6-1 Irish Lizard and Coneyburrow
10-1 Royal Tam
10-8 Churchtown
10-7 Mark Tremblant
20-1 Ordinance and Dominicks
28-1 Gentle Moya
33-1 Queen's Taste, Sanperion and Whispering Steel
40-1 Southern Coup

The next callover is on Monday, March 22—China Mail Special.

AUSTRALIANS

BEAT RAF

17-9

By "PAK LO"

Yesterday afternoon brought the first appearance of the Royal Australian Air Force team from Japan when they played the RAF at Kai Tak and beat them by 17 points (8 tries, 1 penalty goal, 1 goal) to 9 points (2 tries, 1 penalty goal).

The Aussies were the faster, but there was a lot of poor passing in the three-line and there seemed to be only Hoole capable of breaking through the RAF backs.

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THE GAMBOLE

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JAMES PARK VISITS FRED ARMSTRONG

By Thunder! Is Bred To Stay

Christened Frederick Lakin Armstrong, I have always known the Newmarket trainer as Sam. Curiously, I have never asked him the reason, though I have known him since he was in his teens.

Sam Armstrong is the nearest approach to perpetual motion I know. He never seems to be still and you have to hop along if you want to keep up with him going round at stable time.

He doesn't know how to relax. He inherits his amazing energy from his father, who is nearly 81 and as hale and hearty as ever.

Sam has got together the best-looking lot of two-year-olds he has ever had. I told him so, and he didn't contradict me. They should form the foundation on which to build another successful season.

In their different spheres Sam reminds me of Sir Gordon Richards. Just as one lives almost solely for the purpose of riding winners so does the other think of nothing but settling them.

NEVER SHIRKS

It makes no difference to Sam whether it is Bogside, Musselburgh or Alexandria Park. So long as there is a chance of picking up a race, no matter how small, Sam does not let any opportunities slip through his fingers.

Sam never shirks his work and I should say he covers more miles in a season than anyone else in his line.

While I have suggested there will be some nice winners among the two-year-olds, Sam is by no means despondent about having a fling at the classics with his three-year-olds.

He realises that his two colts have something to find, but Epaulette will be trained for the 2,000 Guineas and By Thunder! for the Derby and St. Leger.

When Michael Henry got off By Thunder! the other day, he remarked to the trainer: "This colt might win the Gold Cup next year." Only Michael could think of that, but I am not looking so far ahead. More to the point is what the colt can accomplish as a three-year-old.

MATHEMATICIAN

Mr Jack Gerber, just back from South Africa, has been remarkably successful in his turf ventures. I don't think he would agree if I called him lucky. Yet there is an element of luck in the purchase of yearlings.

So far as the business of racing is concerned, Mr Gerber employs what I would term a mathematician to hold it all down to figures. The combination have on occasion tickled up a ring to a merry tune as a result of their researches.

I have never found that two and two make four in racing, so obviously I still have a lot to learn. Perhaps that is why the bookmakers asked Mr Gerber to make a speech at the Victoria Club dinner. They, too, might like to know the secret.

A HANDFUL

I should think Mr Gerber will be well satisfied with the

progress made by By Thunder! Not that he regret having paid 8,000 guineas for the colt as a yearling. By Thunder! is bred to stay and I do not think there is any doubt that he will do so.

Realising that, Sam Armstrong made no attempt to tune up the colt as a two-year-old, but the owner got a nice part of the purchase money back over the Lingsfield victory.

Vertencia, the dam of By Thunder!, was a grand staying mare who won the Park Hill Stakes and was second in the Cesarewitch. Her son may achieve even greater fame.

ST. LEGER

He has developed into a most attractive colt and has done well in every way. He is strong and sound and has a pliant nature.

The nearest stock are sometimes a bit of a handful, but By Thunder! seems to take after the dam in temperament. It is a stayer that I expect he will have to pick up a bit in speed if he is to become a Derby proposition.

It is when stamina becomes the main factor that the colt will come into his kingdom. That may be about St. Leger time.

Neither By Thunder! nor Epaulette earned a place in the Free Handicap, though the latter won two of his three races. He proved at Bodeur and Leicester that he has good speed, and his breeding suggests he should stay a mile if no more.

He has put on weight in the right places, and we shall be able to judge whether there has been a corresponding advance in ability after he has had a preliminary for the 2,000 Guineas. Even if he fails to reach the top class, he can still prove a money-spinner.

NEWCOMERS

Races will be found for Guillebe, Curry, Zarabanda and Bebe Grande's brother, Nicholas Nickleby, who is taking a long time to mature.

The four-year-old Kithyra looks better than ever. The Scarab looks none the worse for a busy time as a three-year-old and is a hardy customer.

I have never seen Palpatite look so well and should not be surprised if he makes a bold bid to win another Stewards' Cup.

Newcomers from the North are Langton Brig, Lebec, and Paragonaria. Langton Brig runs for the Lincolnshire Handicap, but I would prefer him over a shorter distance. He has put on weight and so has Lebec, who might step up on previous form.

Paragonaria is a useful colt sure to be placed to the best ad-

vantage. Too Marvellous and Fair Virgin are three-year-old fillies who have still to run. The patience may be rewarded one day. A small maiden race can be picked up with Boboli and Tupost.

I like the two-year-old colts better than the fillies, although some of the latter have much to commend them.

In particular I would pick out La Creole a half-sister to First Consul and Empress of France. She is a level-headed, filly of just the right size. Miscash is a bigger edition of her half-sister, Misdecanavour, who was a fast two-year-old.

ONE TO REMEMBER

To place the colts in the order of merit is a difficult task. There are several to whom I took a fancy. The colt by Petition out of the dam of Golden God is well made, with ample rein and good quarters. He has not yet been named, but when he is it will be one to remember.

Gesture by Beau Sabreur, is a well-made-up colt and as round as an apple. He stands on the best of legs and feet and is a well-balanced short-coupled colt. He looks a race-horse already.

POWERFULLY BUILT

Country Fair is an own brother to the speedy Welsh Fairy and is a low, level-colt, standing over plenty of ground. Minutun is a powerfully built dark grey son of Migoli and that good mare Goblet.

He is deep through the body and girths well. He looks like standing up to any amount of work but may require time to find the strength to match his generous frame.

Bicester is the first living foal of that smart mare Pam-bidlan, who did so well for Mr Claude Harper. A son of Tebran, the colt only wants to grow up in front to level out.

WILL BE FIT

Signor is one of the most forward in the team, and may be given a race at Lincoln. He will be fit enough to do himself justice. Wilmarrleigh, a half-brother to Sterope, will want more time.

It seems reasonable to forecast that Sam Armstrong will discover one or two above the average amongst a most promising lot of two-year-olds.

(London Express Service)



W. Snaith up during the gallops.

THE MURRAYFIELD BATTLE

ENGLAND BIDS FOR DUAL RUGBY HONOURS—VITAL MATCH TOMORROW

By J. R. WATKINS

London.

For England's Rugby Union enthusiasts, tomorrow is THE DAY. In one match the national fifteen has a chance of gaining the season's two top honours, the Triple Crown and the Calcutta Cup.

The game is at Murrayfield, where England meet Scotland. Always an important fixture, with the Calcutta Cup at stake, it has been given added stature by England's record this season.

Beating Wales and Ireland, only Scotland stands between her and the Triple Crown. And England feel they are just about due for the honour. They last gained it 17 years ago. All the other three Home countries have since won it—Wales and Ireland twice each.

On form the match looks a good thing for England. Their only defeat this season was by the All-Blacks.

Scotland, playing their last international of the season, still seek a victory. Four setbacks have brought their current record to 14 successive defeats.

But this fixture has a habit of confounding the prophets.

SIGNS OF A REVIVAL

There are, too, signs of a Scottish revival. Their last defeat was more than relieved to scrape home by a 3-0 margin at Murrayfield.

There was little evidence of improvement two weeks later, however, when the Scots went down 6-0 to Ireland, but there are hopes they will be seen tomorrow afternoon.

It's significant, too, that Scotland field the same side for the third match in succession. This vote of confidence by the selectors can have a tremendous effect on morale and inspire the players to produce the fire shown against the New Zealanders.

Nothing endangers team spirit more than constant changes. Last season, for example, Scotland called upon 31 players in four games. No fewer than 14 were new caps. In those four games Scotland conceded 75 points whilst scoring 19.

Results of the "no change" policy should be most evident in the pack—so long the cornerstone of Scottish rugby. A third

game together can help the forwards become a formidable combination.

IN THE SCRUM

It is in the scrum, I think, that the match will be decided. The New Zealanders were unanimous in that Scotland's forwards were the best of the four Home countries.

The question is whether they can build up sufficient advantage to nullify England's likely supremacy behind the pack where the threequarters, Woodward, Butterfield, Quinn and Winn, should hold sway, supported by half-backs Regan and Rimmer.

I don't think they can. England, despite being the conquering heroes, have made four changes. Two are in the pack. New caps Bance and Leadbetter replace Yarranton and Kendall-Carpenter.

The new comers give the pack a more solid look. Hitherto the accent had been on speed. And the All-Blacks showed the deficiencies of fast, rather than powerful, forwards when they beat England 5-0.

The new line-up should pretty well hold their own and ensure plenty of the ball for the backs.

Here too the England changes have a safety first appearance. Full-back King was spectacular. He initiated many movements with sudden up-field dashes. But when those dashes failed, as must happen sometimes, the forwards were given anxious moments.

THE OPPOSITE

Gibbs, his replacement, is the opposite. A brother of a former England player, he is methodical and sound. He invariably finds touch and misses few scoring chances with his place-kicking. Davies, the left wing-threequarter, has also been passed over in favour of a slower man. This time a former cap, Winn, regains his place.

The exclusion of Davies has caused much comment. Many rate him Britain's best three-quarter. Winn, a whole-hearted player, will not let the side down. But his play, like the England victory I foresee, will be workman-like, rather than spectacular.

(London Express Service)

WEEK-END SOFTBALL

The following are the softball League matches and umpires for the week-end:

TOMORROW

Junior-23 Gunners v Pandas (Ground A) 2.30 p.m. Umpire: D. Souza. M. Farias v Souza, C.A.A. (B) v Cometa (B), 3.30 p.m. Umpire: A. Mourao. Mourao v Boddgers (A), 4 p.m. C. Faria v Cometa, R. Hamet, Boddgers v C.A.A. (B), 4.15 p.m. D. A. Line, H. Hombell, L. Yau.

SUNDAY

Senior: A v C.A.A. v South China (A), 2.30 p.m. Umpire: J. Herring. Bannan v Pandas v Braves (A), 3 p.m. Pandas v Braves, 3.30 p.m. A. Mourao v Boddgers (A), 4 p.m. C. Faria v Cometa, R. Hamet, Boddgers v C.A.A. (B), 4.15 p.m. D. A. Line, H. Hombell, L. Yau.

ROYAL H.K. DEFENCE FORCE ORDERS

Serial No. 11, Orders by Colonel L. T. Ride, CBE, ED, Commandant, Royal Hongkong Defence Force, Dated March 16, 1954.

FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Int Pl—Tuesday March 23, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Lecture. Dress: Plain clothes. Thursday March 25, 1954. MPD Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Friday March 26, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Saturday March 27, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Sunday March 28, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Monday March 29, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Tuesday March 30, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Wednesday March 31, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Thursday April 1, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Friday April 2, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Saturday April 3, 1954. HQ RHKDF 9.30 p.m. Signal School 5.30 p.m. Drill. Plain clothes. Sunday April 4, 1954. 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BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO		
"HUPEH"	Tientsin	10 a.m. 22nd Mar.
"SHENKING"	Keelung	5 p.m. 24th Mar.*
Sails from Custodian Wharf		
ARRIVALS FROM		
"SHENKING"	Keelung	7 a.m. 22nd Mar.
"PAKHOI"	Shanghai	22nd Mar.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE		
SAILINGS TO		
"CHANGSHA"	Habaul, Sydney & Melbourne	6th Apr.
ARRIVALS FROM		
"CHANGSHA"	Kobe	29th Mar.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE			
Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said			
	Leads	Sails	Arrives
"ATREUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	24th Mar.	25th Mar.
"BELLEROPHON"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam & Hamburg	24th Mar.	25th Mar.
"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Apr.	6th Apr.
"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.	14th Apr.
"ANTIOCHUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	23rd Apr.	24th Apr.
Scheduled Sailings from Europe			
	Sails	Leads	Arrives
S. "ALCINOUS"	Liverpool	27th Mar.	Hong Kong
G. "ANTIOCHUS"	do	3rd Apr.	do
S. "CYCLOPS"	do	6th Apr.	do
G. "PERSEUS"	do	13th Apr.	do
S. "LAOMEDON"	18th Mar.	20th Apr.	do
G. "ANTHES"	24th Mar.	2nd May	do
S. "CLYTEMNESTRA"	3rd Apr.	8th May	do
G. "PYRRHUS"	7th Apr.	14th May	do
G. Loading Glasgow before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea before Liverpool.			

Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load and discharge cargo.

De La Rama Lines

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

	Sails N.Y.	Sails S.F.	Arr. H.K.
"DONA NATI"	Sailed	Sailed	7th Apr.
"MANGALORE"	do	do	17th Apr.
"JAX"	do	2nd Apr.	3rd May
"HAINAN"	25th Mar.	16th Apr.	15th May
"AGAMEMNON"	12th Apr.	4th May	3rd June

SAILINGS for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, CRISTOBAL and JAPAN		
	Leads	Sails
"BATAAN"	A-3	20th Mar.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	6th Apr.	7th Apr.
"TLEMACHUS"	19th Apr.	20th Apr.
Accepting cargo for Kingston and to Central & South American ports on through bills of lading		

Tathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

Route	Depart	Arr. H.K.
HK/Singapore	(DC-4) 9:00 a.m. 8 days	
HK/Hongkong/Singapore	(DC-4) 9:00 a.m. Tuesday	
HK/Malaya/B. Borneo	(DC-3) 9:30 a.m. Tue. & Fri.	
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong	(DC-3) 1:30 a.m. Wednesday	
HK/Hongkong/Singapore	(DC-4) 7:00 a.m. Thursday	
HK/Hongkong/Hankow/Calcutta	(DC-4) 12:00 noon Friday	

All the above subject to Alteration without notice.

for particulars please apply to:-
Butterfield & Swire (Hongkong) Ltd.
 1 Connaught Rd. Tel: 30331/6
 Branch Office: 50 Connaught Rd. West. Tel: 25875, 32144, 24878

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Postage: China and Macao \$3.00 per month, U.K. 5 p.m. 24th Mar.*

Sails from Custodian Wharf

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Important Witness in Rome's "Drug Orgy" Trial



Beautiful Anna Caglio, lawyer's daughter, known as the "Black Swan" arrived at the law courts in Rome. She went into the witness box when Italy's most sensational trial in years began. Police escorted 23-year-old Anna through the flashing of camera bulbs when she entered the court building. The question on which she gave evidence was: had attractive Wilma Montesi really been drowned when her body was found on a beach, or—had drugs killed her? In the dock was journalist, Silvano Muto, accused of spreading false information likely to disturb public order. The charge arose out of an article in his magazine, in which he suggested that Wilma had died of an overdose of drugs taken at a "wild party." Anna's early evidence shook the court. She said that she suspected that the son of the Foreign Minister, Attilio Piccoli, was somehow mixed up in Wilma's death. She alleged that her suspicions about Piccoli arose from a telephone conversation between "two good friends" that she had overheard. And she suspected that the Marchese Montagna also was somehow mixed up in the affair. There was a hush as Anna said that Muto's article had confirmed her suspicions about Wilma's death. The trial continues.—Express Photo.

BRITISH OILMEN, YES! BUT:

"Back-Street Empire Builders" Not Wanted In Iran

Teheran, Mar. 18.

Although hostility to Britain and the West generally is still apparently widespread in Iran (judging from personal statements and newspaper comment) more and more individuals here are prepared to bury their grievances in order to get oil flowing again from Abadan—and money flowing into the nation's exchequer.

The belief that Iran herself could operate her oil industry in competition with world oil concerns in the West died long ago among better educated people here. Moreover, the cost of living in the towns, after two and a half years of an oil-less economy, has just about doubled.

But the physical return of some 400 or 500 foreigners, whether British, American, French or Dutch, to the refinery and oilfields is regarded here as certain to fan old flames of resentment and provide opposition and Communist groups with a chance to chant the old slogans about "foreign exploitation and interference."

This psychological problem is at its most acute in the city of Abadan itself, the largest oil town in the Middle East and second largest in Iran, whose population of some 200,000 people relies for its livelihood on the great oil industry built up by British capital and brains between 1907 and 1951.

Since British oilmen evacuated Abadan in the summer of 1951 after Iran nationalised the industry and seized the plants, the town's prosperity has ebbed away.

Government officials have continued to pay 20,000 Iranian oil workers their weekly wages although, since the refinery has been working at only one-third of its peak output, there was a full day's work for only a fraction of them.

But although wages have been paid, inflation in Abadan has doubled the price of basic foods and trebled the cost of ten and sugar, a serious matter in a country where tea-drinking is so frequent that it is almost a vice.

Almost as bad as inflation, is the boredom and frustration which grew up among workers and officials when it was gradually realised that without the West's co-operation, Iran would not be able to exploit her great oil resources.

Only 500 yards of mud-coloured water forming the Shatt-el-Arab River separates the townsfolk of Abadan from the shores of Iraq, which eagerly filled the breach caused by Iran's oil shut-down and has benefited by a shower of wealth.

Further down, in the Persian Gulf, lies Kuwait, another rich oil state, which has amassed staggering wealth from oil revenues—wealth sufficient to buy every adult a Cadillac if national wealth were divided evenly.

Comparing this with his own poor state, the Abadan citizen feels that he has been robbed. And he often lays the blame for it on the victim who comes first to mind—the foreigner.

On the other hand, even the lowliest casual labourer prob-

ably realises now that the return of foreign oil technicians and the re-opening of the refinery will mean the start of a long climb back to prosperity.

This factor, Government officials hope, will offset the impact of the foreigners' return. Although no one in Abadan knows, most people expect that the returning oilmen will be either solely British or possibly a mixture of British and American.

What sort of welcome they receive depends greatly on the men themselves, and especially on the attitude of the British. An Iranian accountant who studied in Britain for several years, summed up the Iranian view: "If British experts come they should be 100 per cent British and not imitation pukka shahs."

"During my stay in England, I made many friends and I got to like the English and their ways. But unfortunately so many of the people I liked in England, the instant their ship docked at Abadan, became transformed into what we call 'back-street empire-builders.' They put on airs and expected to be treated like masters."

"We want 100 per cent British; people who do not change when they come abroad but remain British."

By no means everyone in Abadan today is anti-British. The hate campaign against "foreign exploiters and cheats" stirred up by back-alley politicians during the nationalisation crisis, has simmered down. The Communist Tudeh Party and some followers of Dr Mohammed Mossadegh try to keep it going, but the Government has taken strong security measures against "unofficial propaganda."

"Come Back Soon"

Britons who have visited the town recently have been treated with friendliness and courtesy by the townsfolk and shopkeepers asked: "When are the British coming back? We hope it will be soon."

Even officials, engaged with their work, are required with interest after "old friends"

among the British oil staff and promised them a warm welcome on their return. Several of these officials have sons at school in England and insist that they will send other sons when they come of school age.

A few officials said that they would prefer to see American experts come to Abadan. But a majority of those questioned admitted that for them the habit of dealing with the British was so engrained that they would find it too big a wrench to have to adapt themselves to another idiom and different manners.

One English-educated Iranian, commented: "You have a proverb which says that it is better to have the devil you know than the devil you do not know. We sometimes feel like that about it."

In many ways, Abadan is essentially British. It has squash courts and badminton courts, but no bowling alleys or baseball pitches. There are billiard tables in the homes and officials play bridge, but not poker.

Taxis plying in the streets are nearly all of British make. The interiors of the homes of executives are unchanged since the British left and contain mahogany furniture and grand pianos with family portraits on the dining tables, cocktails are based on British recipes.

Most of the town can speak or understand English and thousands go three times a week to the luxurious Taj cinema, which looks as if it had been transported bodily from London, to see British and American films.

Nearly everyone has something good or bad to say about the British in Abadan. But the overriding impression, given to a visitor, is that the town is ready to smoke the refinery furnaces at the foot of a tanker's whistle and no one would hold back "because the British had 'retreated' to help."

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

UTILITIES IN DEMAND ON HK MARKET

Company Reports Promote Some Activity

By A Special Correspondent

Utilities were in demand on the Hongkong Stock Exchange yesterday following a number of interesting reports delivered at Company annual meetings this week.

Share prices generally were firm and Banks featured in a good advance to \$1,685 a rise of \$45 on the week, attributable to the shortage of Bank scrip on the market. Banks are now yielding slightly under five per cent whereas utilities are giving about 6 per cent.

Business has been light, averaging about \$1,100,000 on the week. The market "just seems to be bubbling away gently" as one broker put it, with nothing to disturb the underlying firmness. Demand for shares is steady, but investors are choosing their stocks carefully.

Hongkong Electric were active yesterday on market rumours following the General Meeting. The shares rose to \$31½ on the morning call, but slipped back to \$31½ in the afternoon.

These slight fluctuations were caused apparently by a misapprehension on the part of some investors that Electric were disposing of the Agency carried out by Gibb Livingston Ltd. This idea apparently arose from the Chairman's statement at yesterday's annual meeting that "negotiations were taking place" on the company's future associations with Gibb Livingston.

Actually, a more reliable report circulating yesterday afternoon suggested that in terminating the agreement, Hongkong Electric might have to give Gibb Livingston a certain number of shares. This caused some slight disillusionment.

The announcement that Hongkong Electric had secured a Government contract to extend and improve street lighting in the Colony was well received.

I saw an old balance sheet of the company yesterday, dated 1908. Then the Hongkong Electric had a capital of \$800,000 and its assets were \$72,539. There seems quite a change in the last 46 years. Issued capital today is \$35 million and current and fixed assets are at \$93,527,500.

Telephones finished at \$28.80, up 40 cents on Monday's ex-dividend price. The rise was attributable to the favourable report of the company's activities last year. The Chairman, Mr W. A. Stewart reported that the record number of new telephone services were installed during the financial year—4,665 direct exchanges and 1,893 extensions. He also said that demand for services would not be fully met this year.

China Lights were active and, on a turnover of more than 30,000 shares on the morning call alone, rose 20 cents on the day and were up 70 cents on the week (the "news" were also up 70 cents on the week). Brokers believe the activity was due to news of the company's new line to the Ma On Shan Mine in the New Territories.

China Lights are taking a transmission off the main line between the Shing Mun Road and Tai Po over the hills and down to the sea opposite Ma On Shan. Then they are laying a submarine cable across the water to the mine itself. Work is reported to be "well in hand"—and the company hopes to have the supply available in three months' time.

Kowloon wharves were firm and Hotels and Lands, both ex-dividend, were quietly steady.

Interest in Allied Investors appears to be flagging out and

How To Win Votes

Wedowee, Alabama, Mar. 18. The 16 political candidates in Randolph County have agreed on one campaign compromise. They signed pledges yesterday not to campaign funds, not to use intoxicating beverages to get votes, not to provide transportation to the polls, not to pay more than \$2 to any group soliciting funds and not to accuse each other of unworthy motives or make unfavourable reflections on the character of the other candidates.—United Press.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Mar. 18.

Stocks moved up sharply in increased activity today, reflecting Wall Street's optimism over outcome of the House of Representatives vote on the tax bill.

Industrial shares, featured by oil, aircraft, motor, chemical and special issues, rose \$1.79 on average, a shade from their 25-year top set on March 11. Ralls, followed suit, rising 49 cents on average and utilities gained 11 cents, setting a new high since Sept. 2, 1931.

Volume increased to 2,020,000 shares, from 1,740,000 yesterday. It was the biggest turnover of the week.

Avco Manufacturing featured in volume on blocks of 10,000, 12,000 and 15,000 shares. US Steel, Chrysler, Consolidated Vultee, Glenn Martin, RKO Pictures, General Motors followed in the active list.

RAILS BETTER

Rail gains ranged to 2 points in Missouri-Kansas-Texas preferred.

Of the 1,100 issues traded, 617 were higher on the day, only 277 lower.

Commentators said confidence of House defeat of the Democratic motion to increase personal income tax exemptions at the expense of easing double taxation on dividends helped the market.

The NY Stock Exchange bond volume was \$4,281,000.

The American Stock Exchange volume was 530,000 shares.

Dow Jones Closing averages were:

30 Industrials 350.10
20 Ralls 102.10
10 Utilities 113.67
10 Bonds 109.91
Comm. future price index 103.23
—United Press.

New York Sugar Market

New York, Mar. 18.

World No. 4 sugar futures closed today one point lower to one point higher with sales of 316 contracts.

Domestic No. 6 sugar futures closed 3 points lower to one point higher with sales of 1,172 contracts.

World futures ruled quiet and featureless in a routine trade. Domestic futures sagged under liquidation and hedge selling on a further reflection of the recent increase of 200,000 tons in the import quotas. Future closings were:

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CHINA MAIL

Page 10

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1954.

SHEAFFER'S
ADMIRAL
NEW
"SNORKEL"
PEN

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

11 Lost Years

THE years that should have been among the best in his life, when the prime and pride of young manhood was upon him, have been disastrous years for Stanley. They have made him old before his time and turned him into a frightened man—afraid for what his past still has the power to do to him, afraid for the future.

Stanley is a chunky, tough-looking man of 35, chaotically dishevelled now, with elaborate-sounding change was read out against him at the Tower Bridge Court.

"You are charged," said the learned clerk, "that while being subject to the first schedule of the Prison Act, 1952, you failed to register your address at the police station in the area in which you were living."

VANISHING TRICK

WHAT it amounted to was that Stanley, after coming out of prison 10 days before, had vanished and sought a privacy to which, being named as an habitual criminal, he had forfeited the right.

"Do you plead guilty or not guilty?" asked the learned clerk.

"Slipped me memory," said Stanley in a voice that contained elements both of a whine and of defiance. "Awright," he said, "go on, I plead guilty."

A police officer explained to Miss Sybil Campbell, the magistrate, the nature of Stanley's crime.

INSTRUCTIONS

"BEFORE he left prison," the officer said, "this man was served with a notice instructing him to report his address when he was released. He was given newspaper and an envelope. He failed to notify anyone."

How had they caught him so soon, then, one began to wonder. But not for long. "This man was seen at Southwark police station last night in respect of another matter," the officer said.

Nine days after prison, after serving a 21-month stretch, and Stanley was being interviewed once again, about "another matter."

"There are 15 previous convictions, madam," the officer went on. "Shall I read out the last three?"

AWAITING HIS CUE

"I THINK I'd better hear them all," said the magistrate, and prepared to listen. The officer began the story of the last 11 years of Stanley's life, the years of the prime and pride of his young manhood.

Through those years he had been in and out of prison, for theft, fraud, attempted suicide, and other things.

Stanley was listening in the dock, tapping a pointed toe against the ironwork of the railings, like a nervous actor awaiting his cue, thinking only he knew what, of the many punishments, the many prisons.

"He's never followed any regular occupation," said the officer. "Once or twice he has been in mental hospitals as a voluntary patient, but after a day or two he has discharged himself."

"ME NERVES"

"A MEDICAL report was made on him before he was sentenced last time. The doctors said there was nothing much wrong besides a slight nervous disorder. He is a single man, madam."

Miss Campbell asked Stanley what he wanted to say. His voice when he spoke was trembling as if he were about to cry. "My nerves've been very bad since I came out of prison," he said. "That's why this slipped me memory."

"I shall remind you for another mental and medical examination," said Miss Campbell. "Very well, that's all, thank you."

They showed Stanley out. It may be that the doctors will find in him a kink that they can straighten and that in years to come will be entirely different from him from those that are past. It may be so, there is still time.

Radio Hongkong

6. Time Signal and Programme Magazine for the Rising Generation with News, Views, Interviews, Stories and Music. Produced by Rosemary Richards (Studio); 1.30, Cantonese by Radio. Lesson 14. Prepared by S. K. Lee. Assisted by Deas Bray and Rose Wai Koon (Recorded). 4.45, Melodies from the Operetta "Die Ungarische Hochzeit". 5.15, Weather Report. 7. Time Signal and World News (London Relay); 7.10, Election Talk by Candidate for the House of Commons, Mr. F. W. A. (Recorded). 7.15, Artist of the Week. 7.20, Walter Gresham (Piano); 7.30, Twenty Questions from the Concert Hall of Radio Hongkong. Question Master: Lady Sheenah. The Team: Anne Marden, Paul Butler, John Little, Stan Lloyd (Recorded). 8. Appeal for the Hongkong Family Welfare Society. 8.15, Wakefield, J. B. Chairman of the Family Welfare Society (Studio); 8.55, Music (Recorded). 9.30, Drawn Record songs by Donald Peterson (tenor) with Piano. Accompaniment by Mrs. M. J. (Concert Hall); 8.45, "Looking Back" presented by the British Council (Studio); 9. Time Signal and World News. Four-Classical Requests presented by Curtis Hudson (Studio); 10. The British Council. The World and the West by Arnold Tombs; 10.25, The Far East (BBC78); 10.30, Roundabout. With Victor Young's Singing Strings; 10.50, Weather Report. Music Signet. Radio News (Recorded). London Relay; 11.00, Goodnight Music. God Save The Queen; 11.30, Close Down.

"What's His Line?" Solution
AUCTIONEER
(London Express Service)

Mother Pleads On Knees For Her Son

The 70-year-old mother of a coal dealer who had admitted attacking a woman with a chopper causing her face to be disfigured for life, wept and threw herself on her knees just before sentence was passed on her son by Mr Justice J. Reynolds at the Criminal Sessions this morning.

After she had been helped out of the Courtroom by a detective, the accused, Kwan Tai, alias Kwan Cheong-tai, 45, was sentenced to five years' hard labour for wounding the woman who had lived with him for some years.

He pleaded guilty to the charge of unlawfully and maliciously wounding Wong Wai-yeo on November 23, last year, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm at his house at No. 3 Chi Sing Lane.

Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr, Senior Crown Counsel, showed the Court the kitchen chopper used by the accused in his attack. He said there were altogether five wounds inflicted on the complainant's face and head. Fortunately, all were flesh wounds, and at no time was the woman's life in danger.

But, Crown Counsel stated, it was a fact that she would be disfigured for life.

The complainant, who is aged 33, was the called forward in order that His Lordship could have a better view of her face.

MOTIVE OBSCURE

Mr Blair-Kerr went on to say that the motive for the crime was somewhat obscure. The accused, the woman had been on intimate terms for some time, and it was possible that there had been some quarrel before the offence took place, but he (Crown Counsel) could not produce any other information that could assist the Court.

Mr Patrick Yu, who appeared on behalf of the accused, instructed by Mr S. Ng Quinn of Bruton and Company, admitted in a plea of mitigation that the accused had pleaded guilty to a very serious offence. But the question, he said, was why did he do it?

"I cannot answer it, nor the accused," Counsel declared.

Continuing, he said Kwan had lived with the complainant ever since he became widowed in 1951. Mr Yu said he could not produce any medical evidence to show that the accused was insane or anything to that effect. Mr Yu said the accused's account of the incident on the evening of November 23, was this: he first went to bed about 10.30 p.m., and then remembered the incident. He said he was not in bed at the time of the attack. The next thing he knew was that he was standing over the woman in her room, holding the chopper in his hand. He noticed the woman was already wounded, and he could not explain why or how the woman went on to deliver two more blows with the chopper on her.

TORN BETWEEN LOVES

Mr Yu said Kwan wished to inform the Court that the complainant had been quarrelling almost daily with accused's mother, to whom he was also very much attached. He was thus torn between his love for the one and his love for the other and had spent night after night in a sleepless condition. The attack took place quite unexpectedly to the complainant, as well as to the accused himself.

In asking for leniency, Counsel said the accused had four children, and his 70-year-old mother to support. He asked His Lordship to take into account that he had also suffered by causing irreparable harm to the one person he loved, apart from his mother.

In passing sentence, Mr Justice Reynolds said that: on the evidence it seemed that there was no excuse for using such a weapon on a defenceless woman.

PROMOTIONS

Corporal Gordon Hampton and Lance-Corporal R. A. Rundle of the Hongkong Regiment, have been commissioned in the rank of Lieutenants. It was notified in the Government Gazette today.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Could someone besides Marie fix my hair? She's always discussing world affairs, and I'm way behind on local news!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kai Tak Airport Extension

Sir—I fear that I must take issue with the writer for your Leader article in today's China Mail. It would appear on the face of it that he is very little informed on matters of civil aviation, or indeed aviation in general.

If such is the case he should not be entrusted with the task of writing comments which are likely to be believed by the public as being factual representations of the actual situation, and further to create discontent with Government for the alleged waste of public money.

In order to enlighten the writer of the mentioned leader and the public in general permit me to give a few facts on aviation.

The propeller driven aircraft was invented and first flown over fifty years ago and is not yet obsolete indeed it quite likely will continue in service as an airline transport aircraft, to a greater or less degree for another fifty years.

The aircraft which is used in greater numbers throughout the world today, in greater numbers than any other type or model manufactured, made its first flight as a prototype over twenty years ago. Aviation, firms the world over are still trying to design a suitable replacement for it of a more modern type but so far with but little success, since all the possible contenders have lacked one or more of their old soldiers virtues. I refer of course to the DC3 often known as the Dakota. I can predict that this aircraft will continue to fly, in decreasing numbers of course, for many more years.

The first jet fighter flew over ten years ago and the first jet airline service has only just recently been introduced. It is highly probable that jet aircraft will continue to fly in an airline capacity for the next fifty years.

There have been three accidents, luckily resulting in no loss of life, but attributable to aircraft underdevelopment, the runway, which everyone admits is of insufficient length, a pilot therefore being forced to try to land as near to the beginning as possible in order to have sufficient runway left to slow up on during his landing run. Two of the above aircraft landed just too short hitting the wall at one end and the fence at the other and both crashed and burned.

In length at both ends of each, that is from the pilots point of view. But I would say that the present proposed scheme would give added advantage and safety in the bad weather periods. The above alternative would be considerably cheaper and would make the airfield safer than it is at present for large modern aircraft.

A. B. ARMSTRONG
AIRLINE CAPTAIN

Sir—With regard to your "Comment of the Day" on the Kai Tak airfield plan, I feel that since interplanetary travel is just around the corner, a far better suggestion to Government would be to concentrate their energies in the development of a "spacefield" and spaceship launching ramp, say in the vicinity of Mount Parker.

AIRLINE PILOT

No Connection

Sir—Your issue of today mentions, under the headline: "New Anglo-Chinese trade parlous" the "British Council for the promotion of international trade," which Mr. Eden has described as a Communist-front body.

The absence of capitals for the second half of this body's title may perhaps confuse your readers into connecting this organization with ourselves. May I therefore point out that the British Council for the promotion of international trade has no connection whatever with the cultural organization, the British Council?

JANET TOMBLIN.
Asst. Representative
British Council, Hongkong.

Answer To Correspondent

"Rozzer"—The art of alliteration has its place even in headline writing—Ed. China Mail.

Official Appointments

His Excellency the Governor has appointed Mr. L. G. Morgan to be an Official Member of the Legislative Council, provisionally and subject to Her Majesty's pleasure, during the absence from the Colony of the Hon. D. J. S. Crozier. It was announced in the Government Gazette today.

HK Hotel Project Going Ahead

PLANS APPROVED FOR A 13-STOREY BUILDING

The project for rebuilding the Hongkong Hotel is going ahead. Mr Horace Kadoorie disclosed in his printed statement to shareholders at this morning's annual general meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels, Ltd. Plans for a 13-storey building, 170 feet in height, have been approved by the Building Authority, and engineering drawings are now being prepared.

Mr Kadoorie, who presided at the meeting held in Telephone House, also revealed the extent of the improvements made to the Peninsula Hotel during the past year, including the installation of air-conditioning to a substantial part of the hotel.

Mr Kadoorie's printed statement read as follows:

The balance of Working Account transferred to the credit of Profit & Loss Account amounts to \$1,885,729.56, an increase of \$107,190.02 compared with last year. I think you will agree that this is satisfactory as the past year has not been a particularly good one for business generally throughout the Colony, and as you are aware, our hotels are primarily dependent on trade, as whose conditions flourish there will be found businessmen and tourists.

Rents received show an increase over last year's figure of \$45,387.10, the major portion of which is due to the inclusion of a full year's rental amounting to \$120,000 from the lessees of the Hongkong Hotel site. The reduction in Rent, Rates and Licences on the other side of the account is also attributable to this arrangement.

The project for the rebuilding of the Hongkong Hotel has advanced another step since our last meeting and plans were finally approved by the Building Authority on October 30, 1953. These plans will permit of a building of 13 storeys, 170 feet in height. Engineering drawings are now being prepared by Mr Faber the Civil Engineer employed by Local Enterprise Ltd.

AIR-CONDITIONING

The increase in Depreciation is mainly due to the installation of the air-conditioning plant in the Peninsula Hotel, previously used in the Hongkong Hotel, as a result of which all bedrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors and all the Reception rooms and verandah on the first floor can be both cooled in summer and heated in winter. There is no doubt that our policy to install this plant has been justified, so much so that it has been decided to proceed with the air-conditioning of the remaining three floors of bedrooms, and orders for additional plant amounting to \$518,040 have already been placed. A payment of \$145,170 has been made in respect of this, which appears in the accounts under review.

The second portion of the Profit & Loss Account shows a credit balance brought down of \$1,242,801.74, an increase of \$123,634.70 over last year. To this has been added a profit from the sale of two of the Company's motor vehicles, amounting to \$10,068.10 and the carry forward from 1952 of \$101,339.31 making a total available for appropriation of \$1,355,107.15.

Dealing next with the Balance Sheet, it will be noted that there is little variation in the value of the fixed assets which is slightly reduced compared with last year.

Stocks show a reduction of \$187,527.05 which is mainly attributable to the sanitary duct work at the Peninsula Hotel, a part of which piping etc. has been withdrawn from Engineering Stores and these correspondingly reduced. It will be remembered that an opportunity was taken to purchase piping in connection with this work at favourable rates in 1951.

The Cash position shows a reduction compared with last year of \$200,863.39 but a large portion of this is due to the programme of repairs work which has been entered on throughout the past year and which now appears as a deduction from the Reserve for Extraordinary Repairs and Renewals.

Here it may not be out of place to inform shareholders that what has been accomplished during the past year at the Peninsula Hotel. Air-conditioning has already been referred to earlier in my remarks.

The work of renewal of sanitary piping proceeded throughout most of the year and it is anticipated that this will be completed during the current year.

The whole of the outside of the Hotel was replastered where necessary and cleaned so far as possible of its camouflage which contained a very high percentage of Bitumen. Bitumen is known to penetrate through as many as 40 coats of paint, so we can only hope that the treatment applied will prove effective.

Floodlighting was also installed as part of our Coronation decoration scheme and is now a distinctive feature of the decor of this establishment.

The Cafeteria and Ground Floor kitchen and Garde Manger have been completely overhauled and renovated and a new restaurant called "Goddie's" was opened on December 19, 1953. This is filling a long-felt need in Kowloon and has already become popular.

The cost of these extraordinary repairs amounts to \$807,661.19 and has completely absorbed the balance of \$415,000 which was available on the Reserve for Extraordinary Repairs and Renewals at the commencement of 1953.

REPULSE BAY HOTEL

Repulse Bay Hotel has also had to bear heavy expenditure as it was found necessary to replace the roof of the West Wing. Certain drainage work had also to be undertaken as it was found that many storm water drains had been filled up by the Japanese with the result that heavy rainfall had only one outlet and as that was on to the main Island Road the Drainage Office have drawn our attention to it.

From the above you will note that we have spent a considerable sum on repairs necessary to our hotels. The damage done during the war years was of such magnitude that shareholders must anticipate that these heavy repairs will continue for some time to come.

We owe it to our guests to see that they are comfortable, well looked after, and have the amenities that can be offered. Hence, redecoration, refurbishing and numerous other improvements are essential.

It will be appreciated that it is only possible to carry out the foregoing programme over a period of years.

Today we are faced with heavy competition, heavier than at any time in our past history. It is, therefore, more than ever essential to maintain a high standard of efficiency.

The Lido has been leased to another concern since the turn of the year on terms which will prove of benefit to your Company.

STAFF BONUSES

In the accounts under review, provision has been made for the payment of a bonus to Chinese staff and this was duly paid at China New Year, the usual bonus of 10% on their annual salaries to Foreign staff has also been provided for and I trust that you will approve of this.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking both the staff and the management for their loyalty and hard work during the past year.

Your directors recommend the following appropriations:— That from the balance of \$1,355,107.15 available at the credit of Profit & Loss Account, a dividend of 65 cents per share, free of tax, be paid of \$1,038,857.15, this will absorb a sum of \$770,013.55.

That a sum of \$227,505.19 be transferred to the Reserve for Extraordinary Repairs & Renewals, thereby making this reserve \$175,000.

The foregoing appropriations, if approved, will leave a balance of \$151,688.41 to be carried forward to 1954.

Seconding the Chairman's proposal for a motion of thanks and statement of accounts, Mr A. Hillyly said:

I am pleased to see that the report and accounts now include a statement by the Chairman on the year's working. After studying the statement I feel that it has everything to commend itself to shareholders. I have ample time to study the accounts and attend the Meeting fully informed as to the Company's progress or otherwise. This procedure is undoubtedly a time saving device due to the Chairman's courtesy to the shareholders who attend the Meeting.

The statement simply covers the accounts and so there is little left for me to say except that I am glad to note that the process of improvement has been maintained throughout 1953, and hope from now on, with the able management of the present staff, we shall look forward to further progress in years to come.

I regret to say that shareholders in the past were very disappointed and disillusioned on the working of the Colony Hotel. I hope the Directors of 1949/1950, when the Hotel and restaurants were doing a roaring and booming trade, had not been so well-to-do as emigrants from all over China looking into the Colony for a safe and secure investment. I hope in the Hotel in those days was just like looking for a needle in a haystack. I hope the Directors will give me my influence with the management in one of the Hotels to that place for wayfarer friends, urgently in need of accommodation.

I would like to suggest to the Board to make better use of the very valuable property known as "Peninsula Hotel," to better advantage by building a modern up-to-date hotel on the site. I feel sure, not only contribute to the increased revenue of the company, but also help to fill the ever increasing need of accommodation now prevailing in the Colony. I hope the Directors will give this matter their serious consideration.

Before formally seconding the report and accounts, I wish to add a few words about the work of our present Chairman, Mr Horace Kadoorie. Since the death of our late Managing Director, Mr. Kadoorie has been a very keen interest in its operation. He has been making every effort to find ways and means to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to increase the comfort of the guests in the Hotel for which he deserves our thanks.

In reply, the Chairman said: Thank you, Mr Hillyly, for your kind words.

Regarding Peninsula Hotel, I know you will be pleased to hear that this property has had the active consideration of the Directors and that the first step we have already started negotiating with Government for the renewal of the lease.

The Report and Statement of Accounts were then carried unanimously.

On the proposal of Mr E. Grant Smith, seconded by Mr Kok Sang-woo, Sir Robert Ho Tung was re-elected Chairman of the Directors.

Messrs Pent, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. were re-elected auditors on the basis of the new regulations, seconded by Mr Lam King-tak.

Regulation 27 provides that a daily paid employee may on retirement be paid a gratuity calculated at 15 times his daily rate of pay at the time of retirement for every completed period of 12 months' service.

The second proviso to the regulation, however, limits the total amount of the gratuity, which may be granted to 300 times the worker's daily rate of pay. The effect of this proviso is that after 20 years' service he attains his maximum retiring benefit, and earns no more benefit after that.

It is considered that there is no justification for this limitation, and the new regulations accordingly abolish it.

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